

MARVEL
\$1.00 US
\$1.25 CAN
35
FEB
UK 40p
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GUEST
STARRING:

X-FACTOR

POWER PACK



**FALL
OF THE
MUTANTS
TIE-IN**

BOG+PARTA

LIFE OR DEATH!

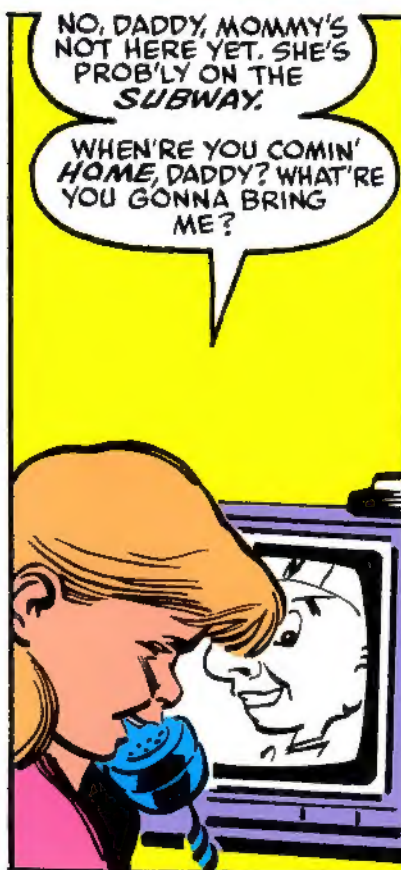
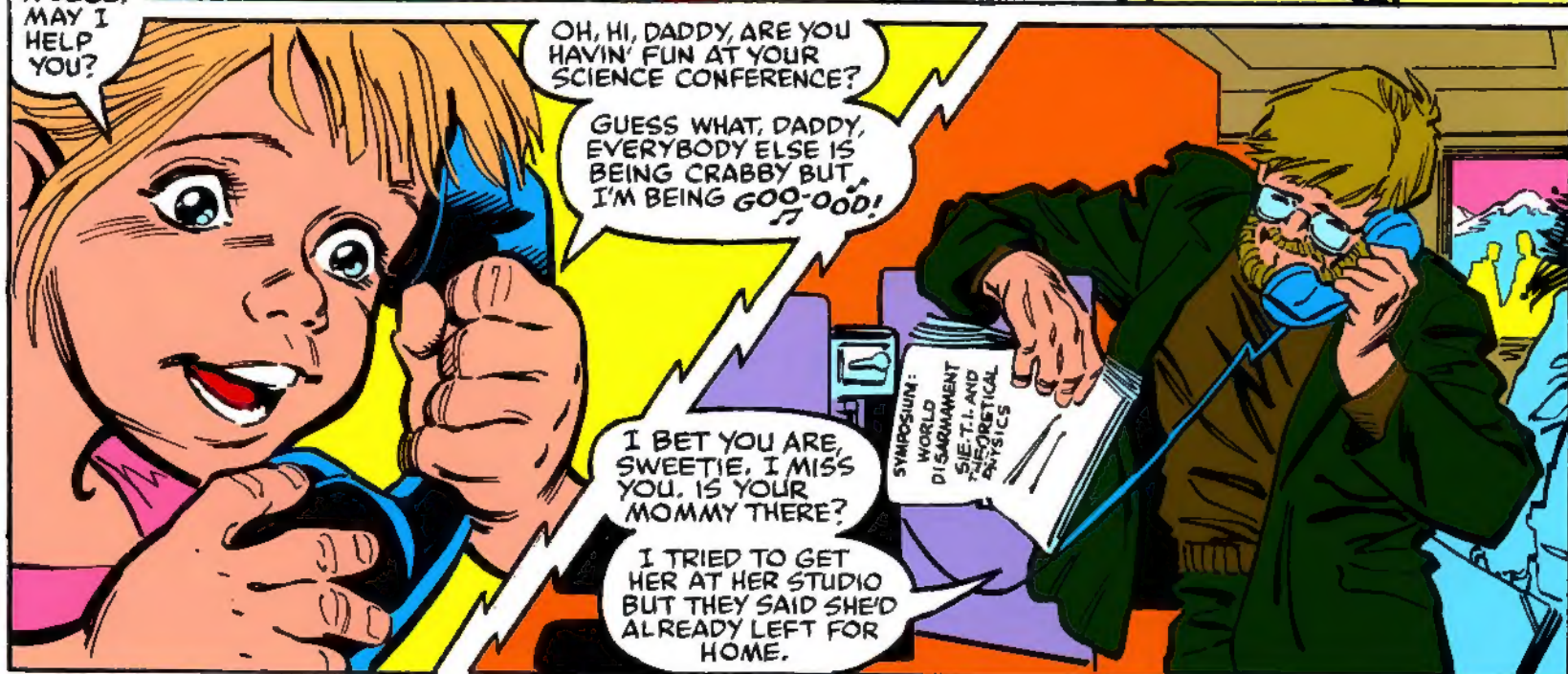
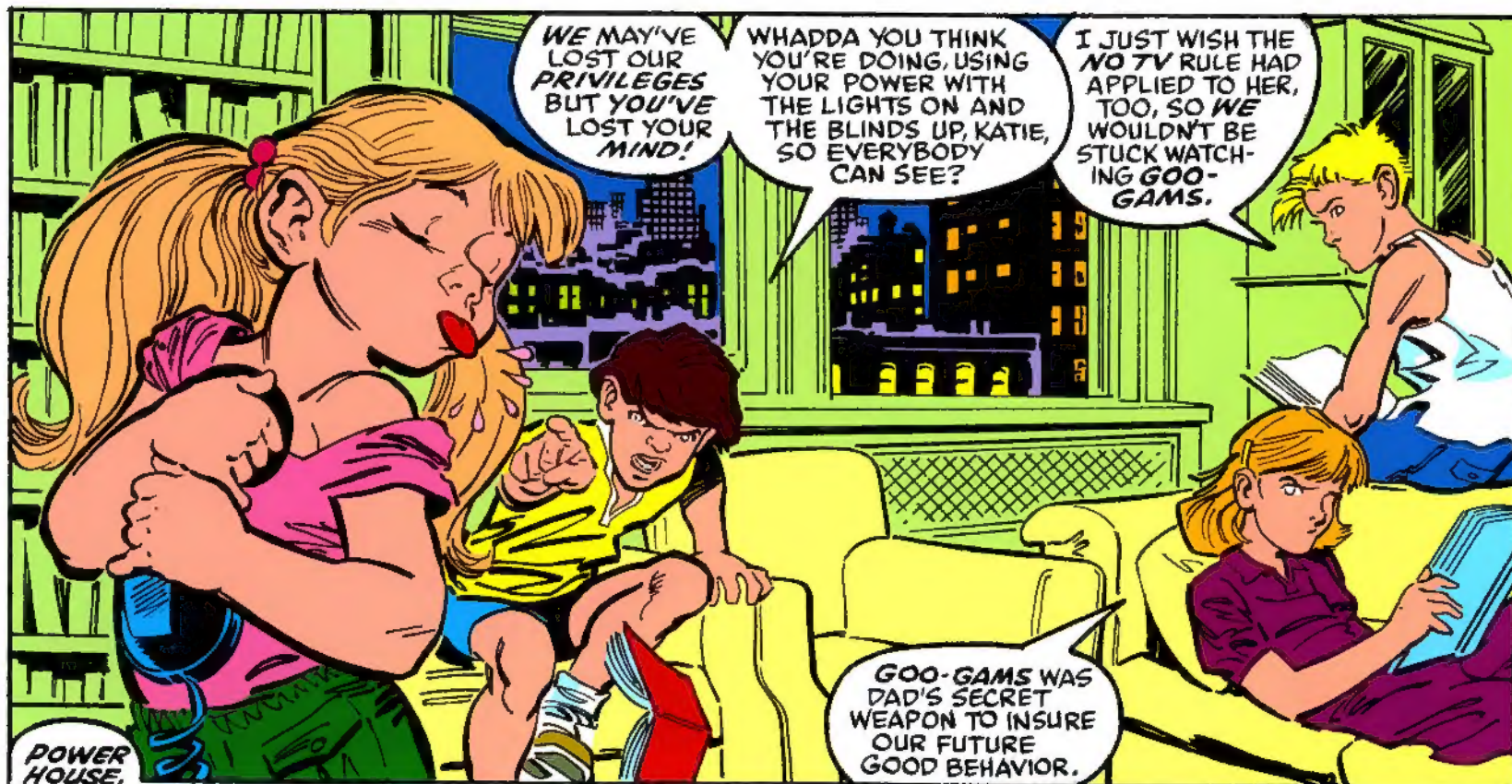
I'LL GET IT!
I'LL GET IT!

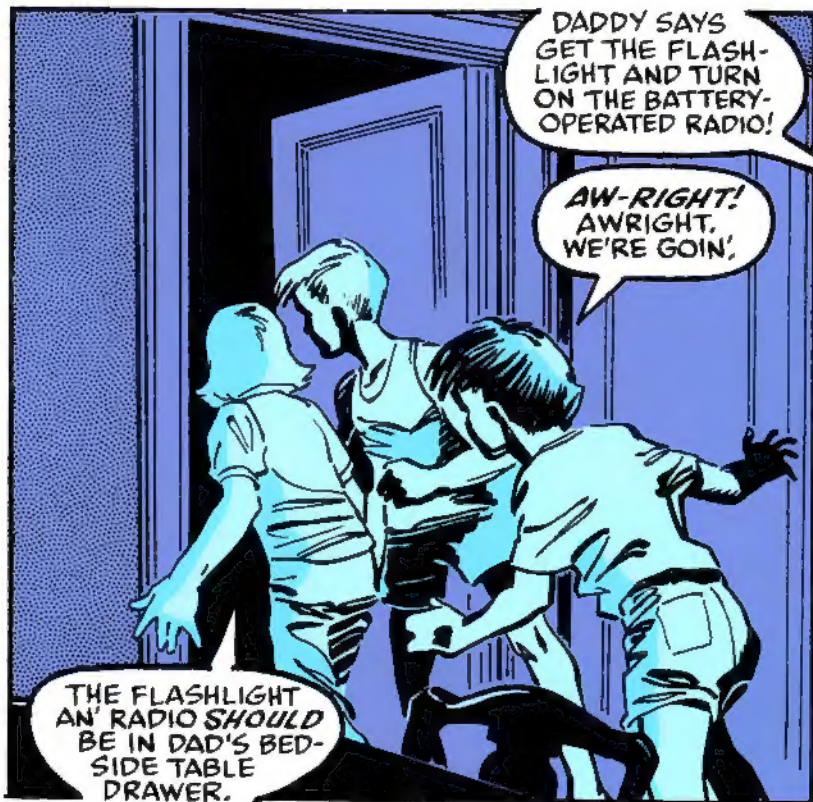
YOU GUYS ARE
GROUNDED AND
DAD SAYS NO
TELEPHONE!

RING!
RING!

POWER PACK™ Vol. 1, No. 35, February, 1988. (ISSN #0894041X) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Gallion, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hopson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schitman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published every 6 weeks. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and foreign, \$14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. POWER PACK (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO POWER PACK, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016, SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

T O L D	P E N C I L E D	I N K E D	L E T T E R E D	C O L O R E D	E D I T E D	D E L I V E R E D
<i>with a thrill by</i>	<i>with a chill by</i>	<i>without a skill by</i>	<i>with a quill by</i>	<i>with good will by</i>	<i>with skill by</i>	<i>with a bill to</i>
LOUISE SIMONSON	JON BOGDANOVE	HILARY BARTA	JOE ROSEN	GLYNIS OLIVER	CARL POTTS	TOM DeFALCO





DADDY SAYS
GET THE FLASH-
LIGHT AND TURN
ON THE BATTERY-
OPERATED RADIO!

AW-RIGHT!
AWRIGHT,
WE'RE GOIN'.

THE FLASHLIGHT
AN' RADIO SHOULD
BE IN DAD'S BED-
SIDE TABLE
DRAWER.



HEY, IT'S
DARK IN
HERE!

THEY'RE
NOT THERE!

RATTLE!

BUMP!



CRUNCH!

YOU HAD THE
FLASHLIGHT
LAST, JULIE.

BUMP!



YOU WERE
MAKING JEWELRY,
REMEMBER, AN'
ONE OF THE BEADS
ROLLED UNDER
YOUR BED AND
YOU GOT THE
FLASHLIGHT...

YEAH,
JACK, AN'
I PUT IT
BACK.

THUD!

BONK!

THWUMP!



KLONK!

GOOD GRIEF,
ALEX, HOW
SHOULD I
KNOW?

SMASH!

WE'LL NEVER
FIND IT IN THE
DARK! MAYBE
WE OUGHTA
LIGHT SOME
CANDLES 'R
SOMETHIN'.

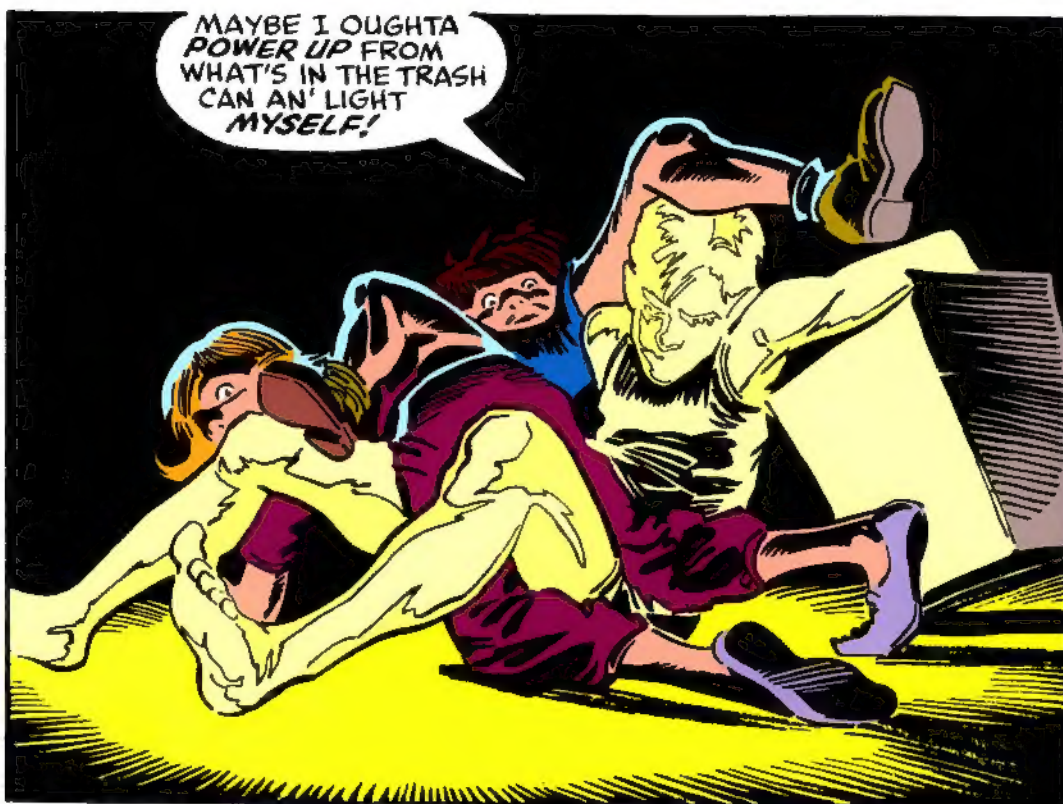
OH, YEAH?
SO WHERE
IS IT?

**TWEEK!
HONK!**

WELL,
IT ISN'T
HERE.

KEERASH!

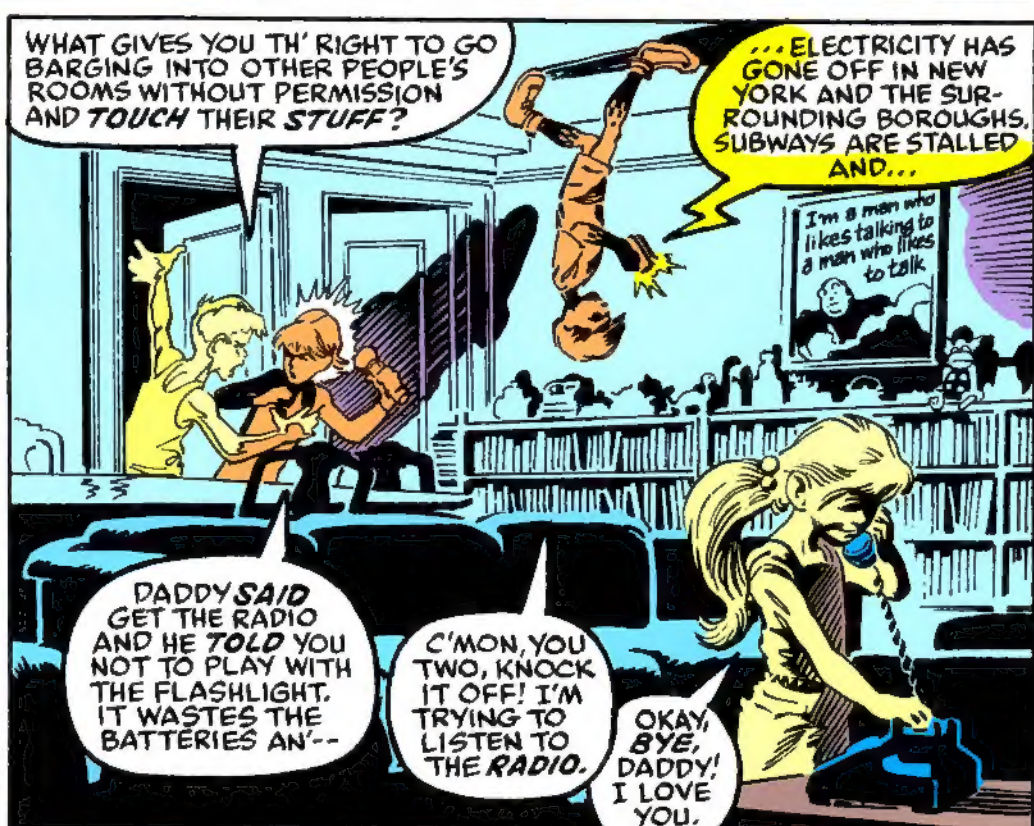
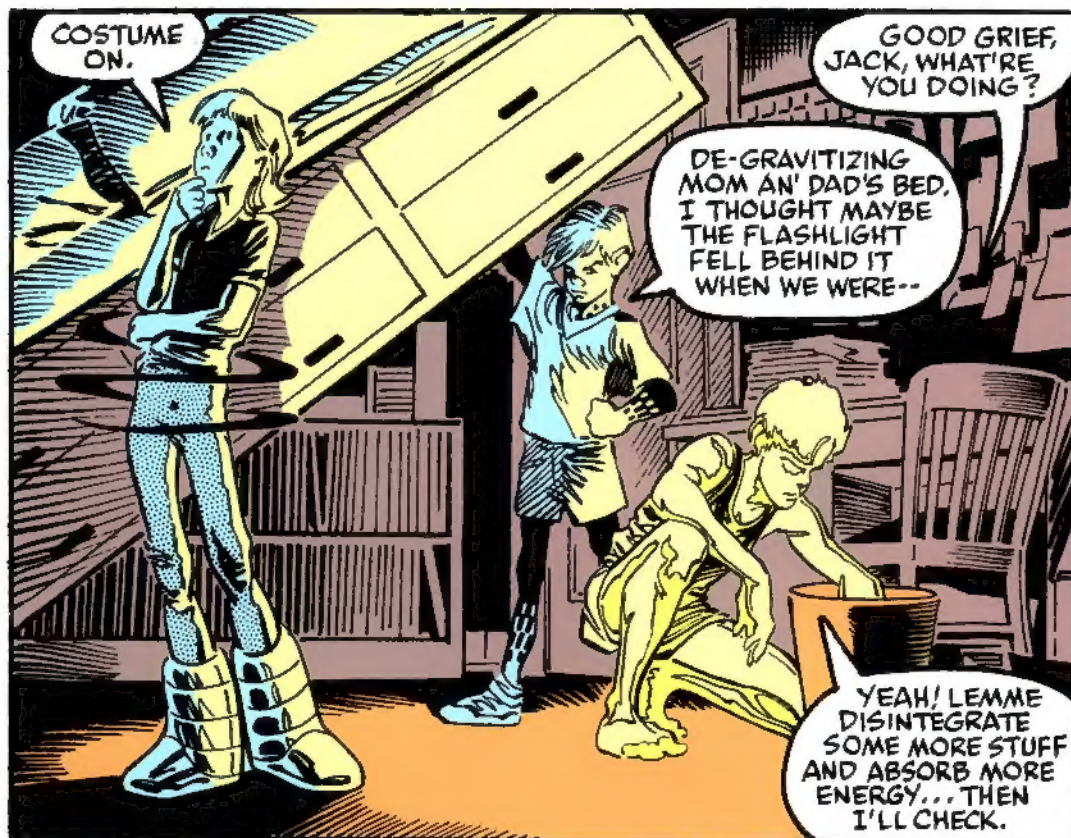
BOINK!



MAYBE I OUGHTA
POWER UP FROM
WHAT'S IN THE TRASH
CAN AN' LIGHT
MYSELF!



UN... WE
CAN SEE
NOW, DADDY.



SOON...

MOMMY'S ON A SUBWAY. SHE'S STUCK DOWN THERE AN' IT'S CROWDED AN' DARK AN'...

DON'T WORRY, KATIE-BEAR, SHE'LL BE OKAY. IT'S JUST A NORMAL, ORDINARY BLACKOUT.

OH NO IT'S NOT! LISTEN TO THIS!

...VIOLENT EXPLOSIONS AND SUDDEN OUTBREAKS OF ILLNESS AND WASTING WEAKNESS ARE REPORTED...

...FOLLOWING THE SIGHTING OF FLYING APPARITIONS CALLING THEMSELVES THE HORSEMEN OF APOCALYPSE.

THOUGH THESE APPEAR TO BE THE SAME SUPER-VILLAINS WHO, MERE DAYS AGO, RAVAGED PORTIONS OF CENTRAL PARK...

...AT LEAST ONE RELIGIOUS LEADER HAS HERALDED THEIR APPEARANCE AS SIGNALLING THE END OF THE WORLD.

PANIC AND LOOTING ARE WIDESPREAD. PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN INDOORS AND...

...AND MOMMY'S OUT THERE!

FOOM! FOOM! SHIRAKABOOM!



SHE'S IN THE SUBWAY, KATIE. THAT'S INSIDE, LIKE THE ANNOUNCER SAID. SHE'LL BE OKAY.

WE CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT. I GUESS WE JUST GOTTA UN-GROUND OURSELVES AN' GO OUT, HUH?

AFTER ALL, WE WERE GIVEN OUR POWERS TO SAVE THE WORLD AND THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS SAVE OUR OWN MOM!

GIMME A BREAK, JACK! EVEN IF WE ACTUALLY FOUND MOM, WHICH WE PROBABLY COULDN'T...

...WE COULDN'T FLY HER HOME UNLESS WE WANTED TO LET HER KNOW WE HAD POWERS!

WHICH MAYBE WE OUGHTA DO, 'CAUSE US SNEAKIN' AROUND TO KEEP OUR POWERS SECRET IS WHAT GOT US IN TROUBLE AND GROUNDED!

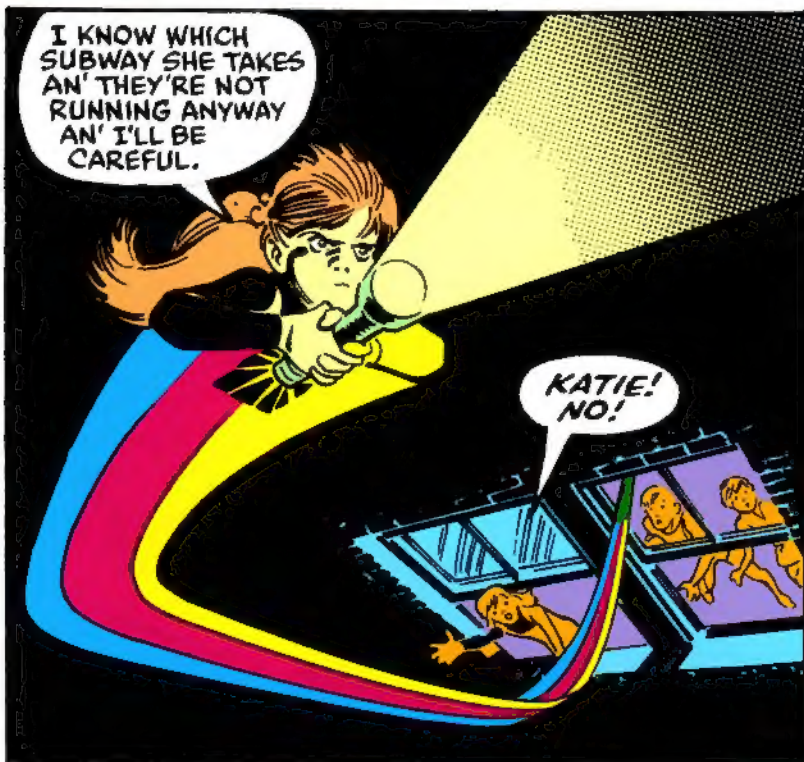


NO! WE CAN'T TELL! IT WOULD SPOIL IT--HEY!

SWATCH!

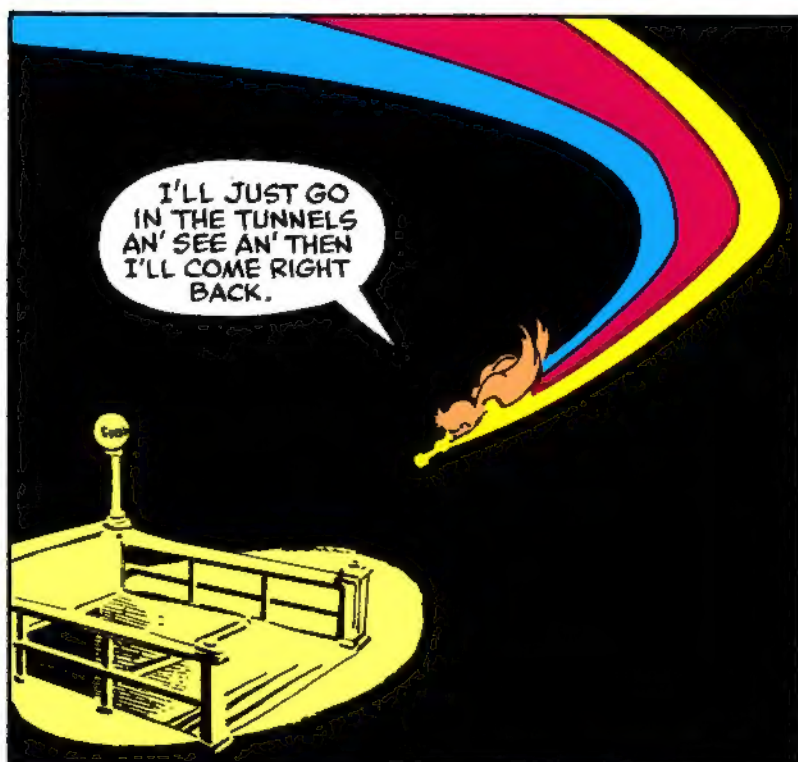
I'M NOT GROUNDED 'CAUSE DADDY SAID I WAS TOO LITTLE TO BE 'SPONSIBLE SO I'LL GO.

COSTUME ON!



I KNOW WHICH SUBWAY SHE TAKES AN' THEY'RE NOT RUNNING ANYWAY AN' I'LL BE CAREFUL.

KATIE! NO!

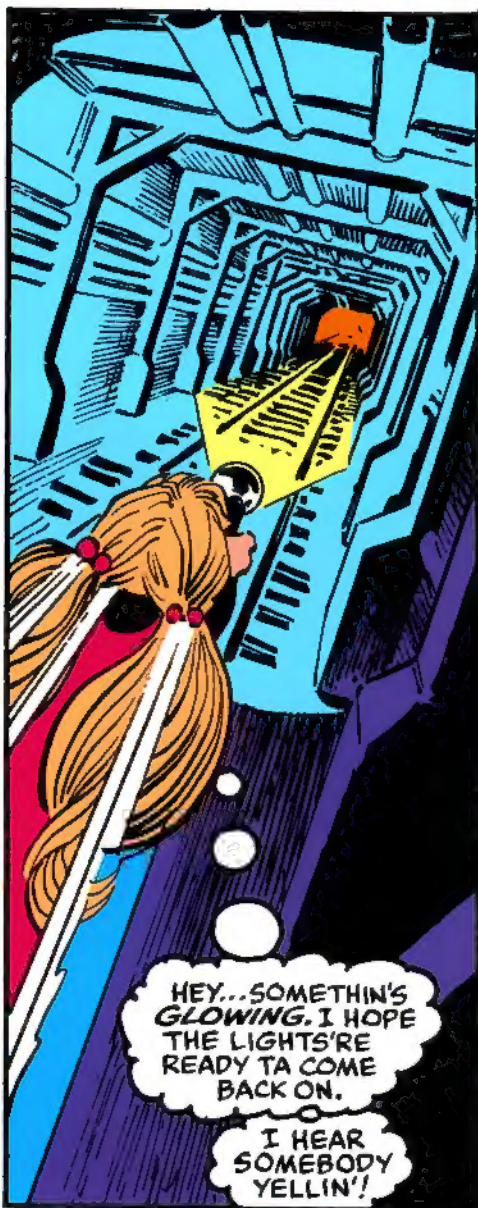


I'LL JUST GO IN THE TUNNELS AN' SEE AN' THEN I'LL COME RIGHT BACK.



IT SURE IS
DARK DOWN
HERE. AN'
SCARY.

I WISH I BROUGHT THE
OTHERS. BUT I CAN'T.
THEY CAN'T GO OUT.
DADDY SAID SO.

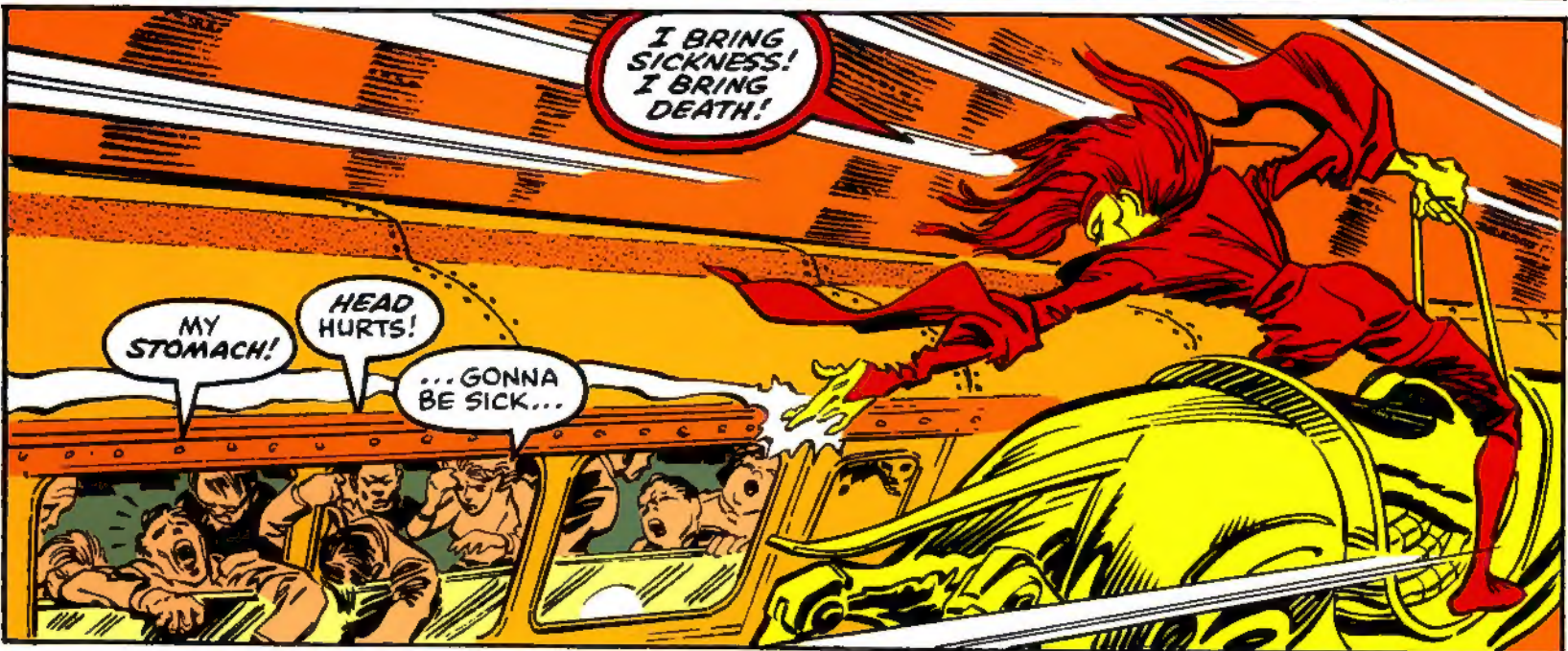


HEY...SOMETHIN'S
GLOWING. I HOPE
THE LIGHTS'RE
READY TA COME
BACK ON.

I HEAR
SOMEBODY
YELLIN'!



I AM
PESTILENCE!
KNOW ME!
FEAR ME!

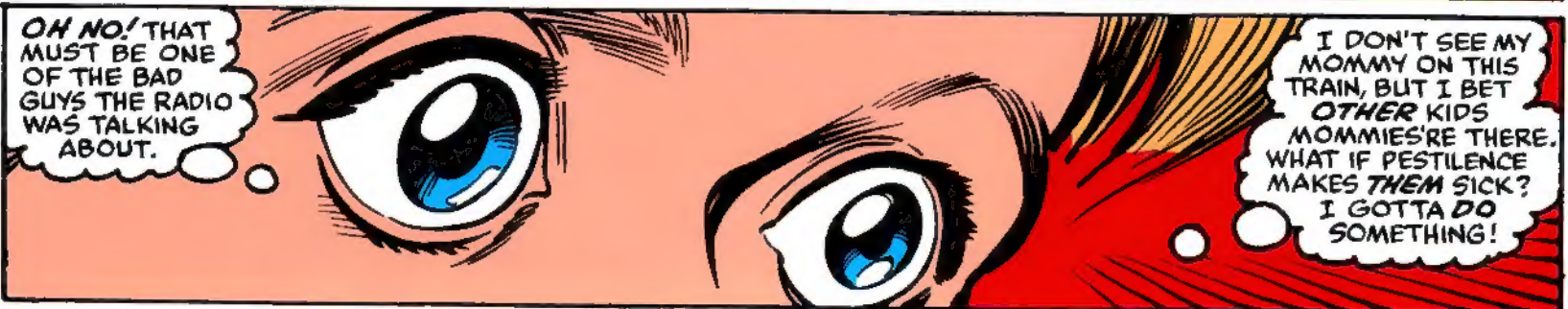


I BRING
SICKNESS!
I BRING
DEATH!

MY
STOMACH!

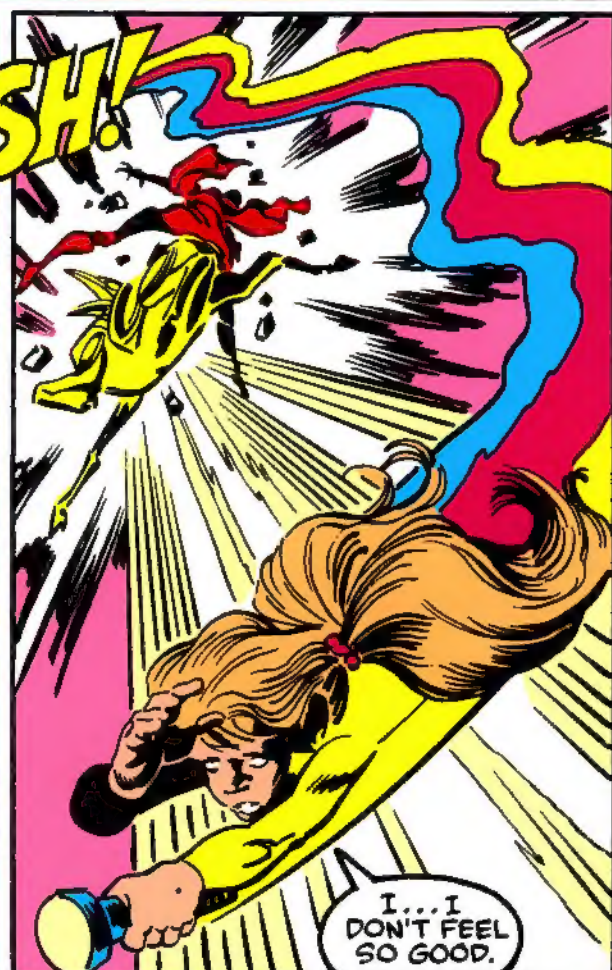
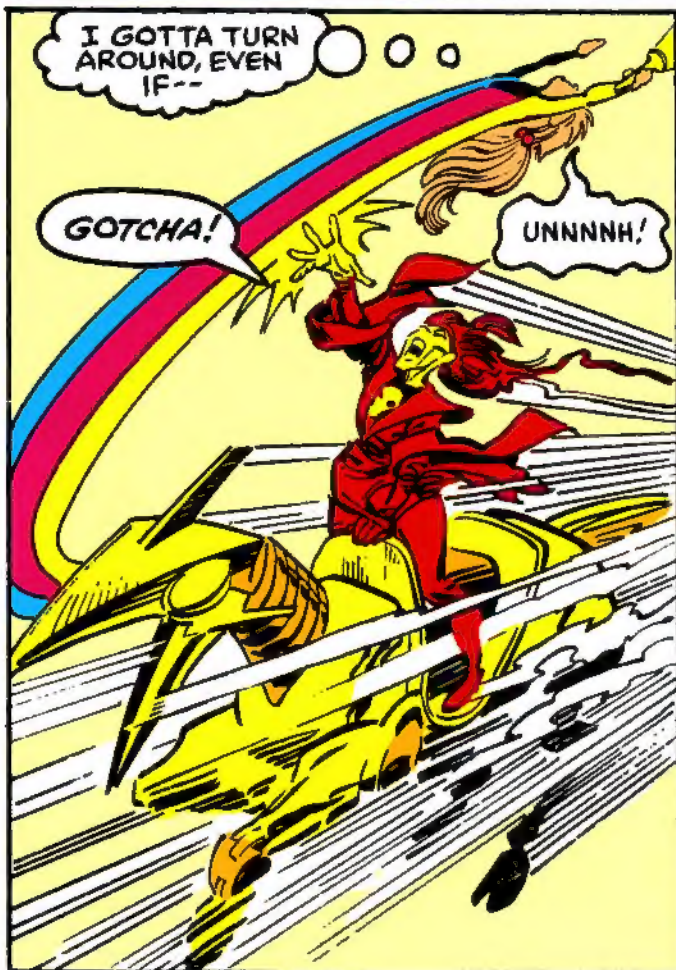
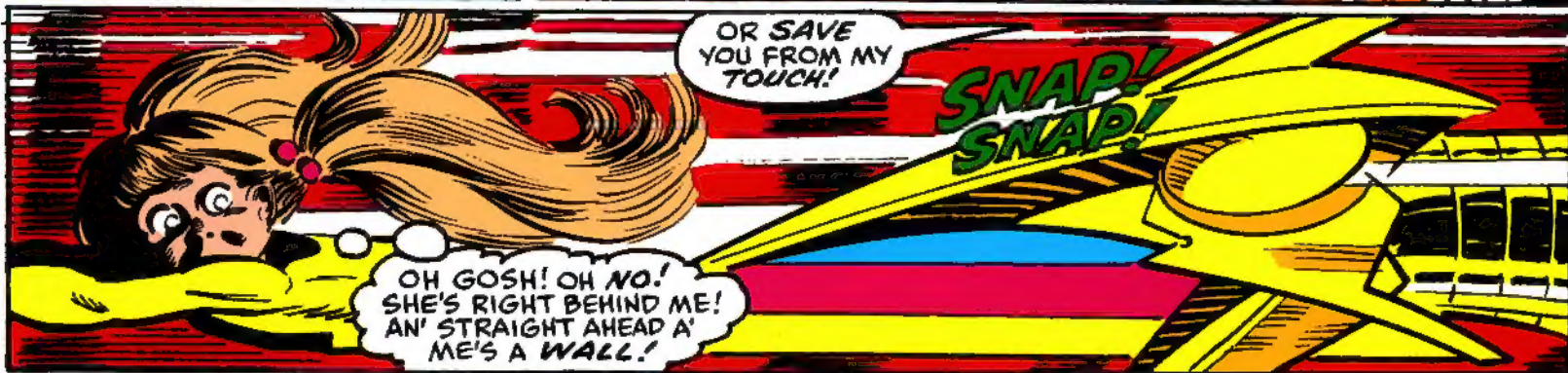
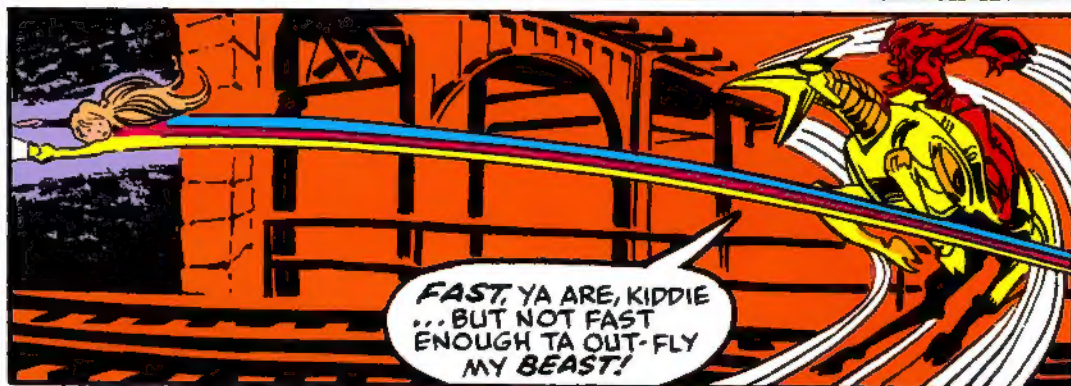
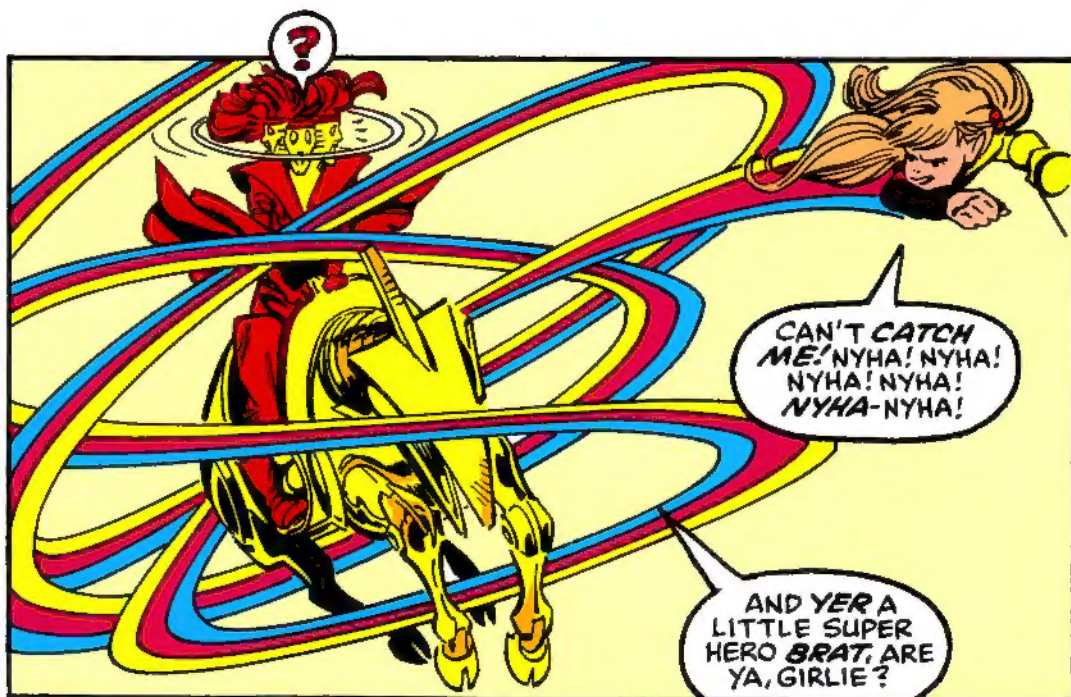
HEAD
HURTS!

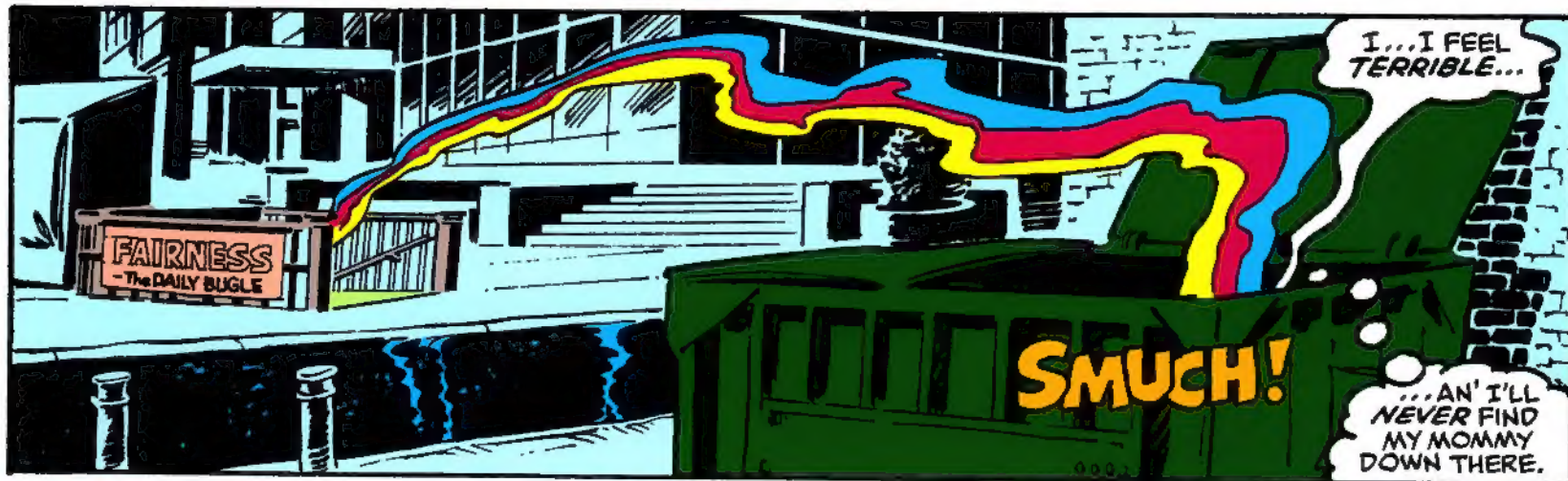
...GONNA
BE SICK...



OH NO! THAT
MUST BE ONE
OF THE BAD
GUYS THE RADIO
WAS TALKING
ABOUT.

I DON'T SEE MY
MOMMY ON THIS
TRAIN, BUT I BET
OTHER KIDS
MOMMIES'RE THERE.
WHAT IF *PESTILENCE*
MAKES *THEM* SICK?
I GOTTA DO
SOMETHING!

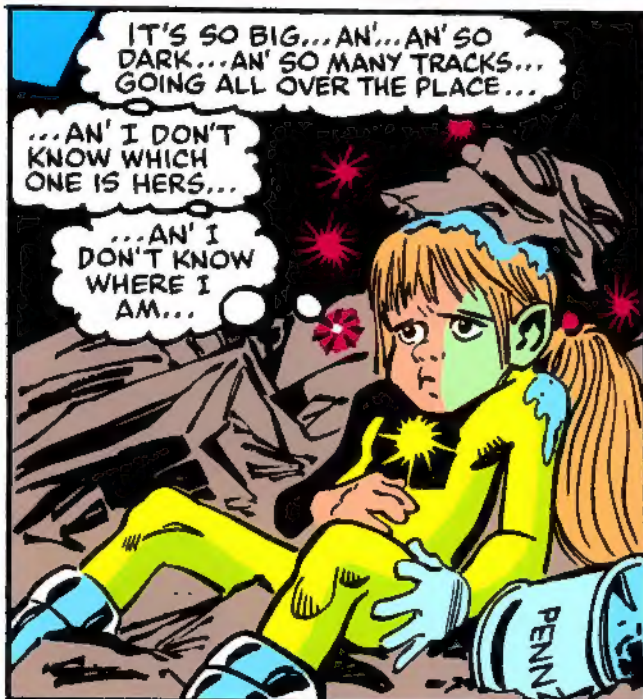




I... I FEEL TERRIBLE...

SMUCH!

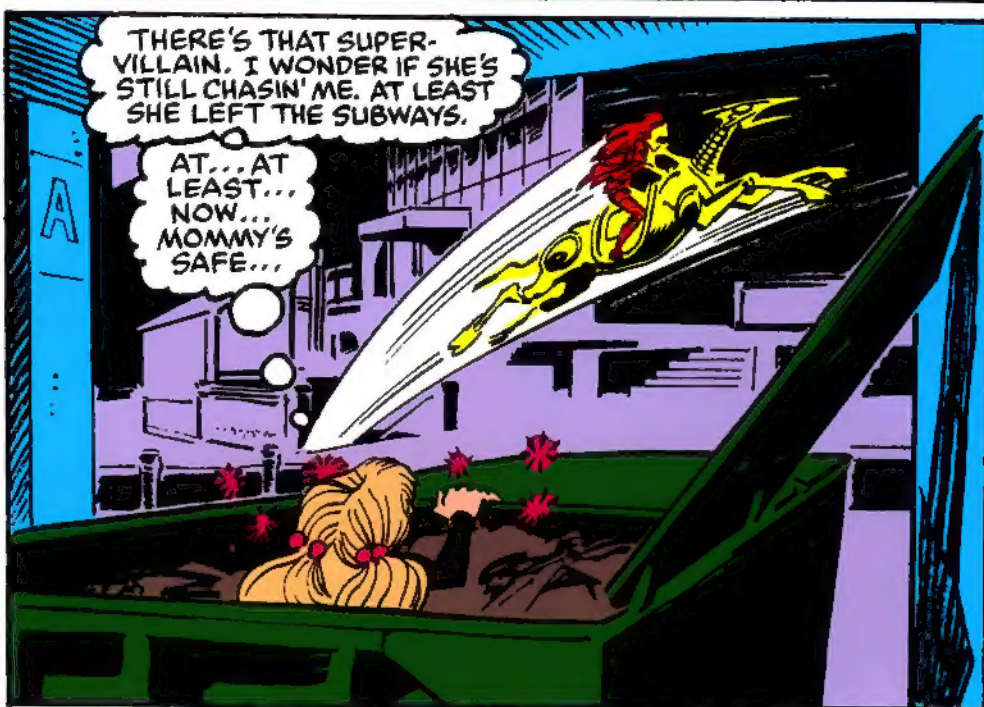
...AN' I'LL NEVER FIND MY MOMMY DOWN THERE.



IT'S SO BIG... AN'... AN' SO DARK... AN' SO MANY TRACKS... GOING ALL OVER THE PLACE...

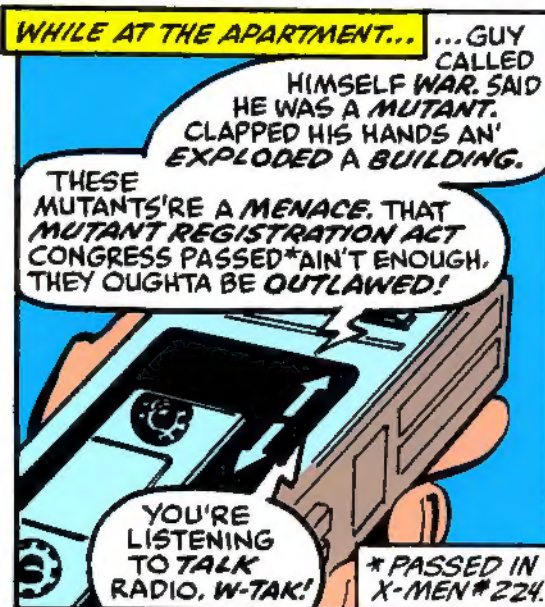
...AN' I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IS HER'S...

...AN' I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM...



THERE'S THAT SUPER-VILLAIN. I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL CHASIN' ME. AT LEAST SHE LEFT THE SUBWAYS.

AT... AT LEAST... NOW... MOMMY'S SAFE...



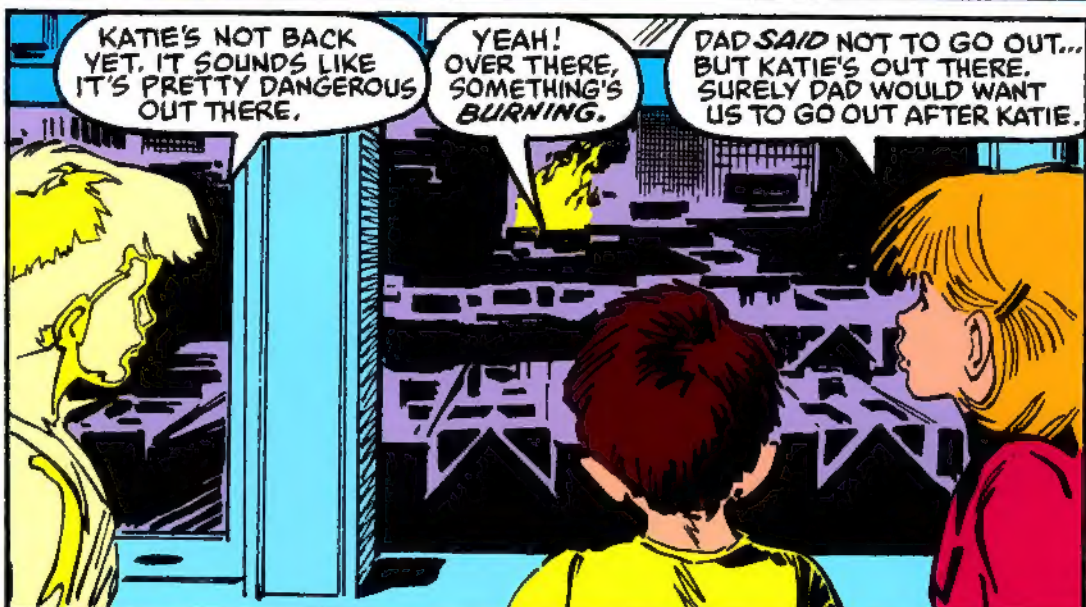
WHILE AT THE APARTMENT...

...GUY CALLED HIMSELF WAR. SAID HE WAS A MUTANT. CLAPPED HIS HANDS AN' EXPLODED A BUILDING.

THESE MUTANTS'RE A MENACE. THAT MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT CONGRESS PASSED*AIN'T ENOUGH. THEY OUGHTA BE OUTLAWED!

YOU'RE LISTENING TO TALK RADIO, W-TAK!

*PASSED IN X-MEN #224.



KATIE'S NOT BACK YET. IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS OUT THERE.

YEAH! OVER THERE, SOMETHING'S BURNING.

DAD SAID NOT TO GO OUT... BUT KATIE'S OUT THERE. SURELY DAD WOULD WANT US TO GO OUT AFTER KATIE.

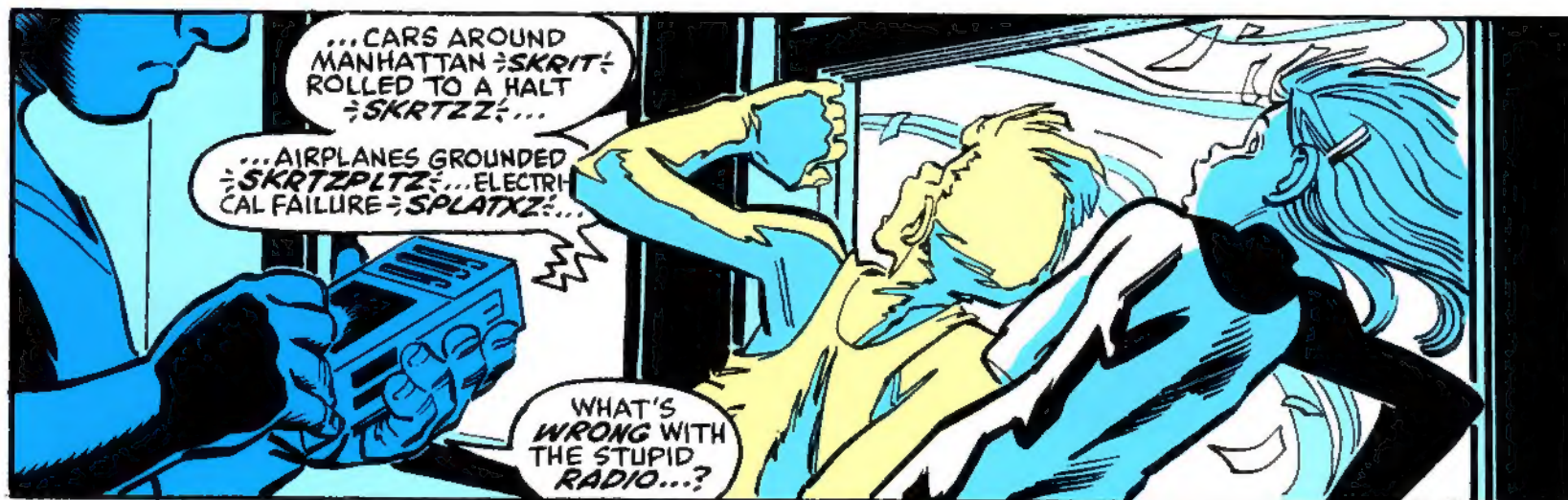


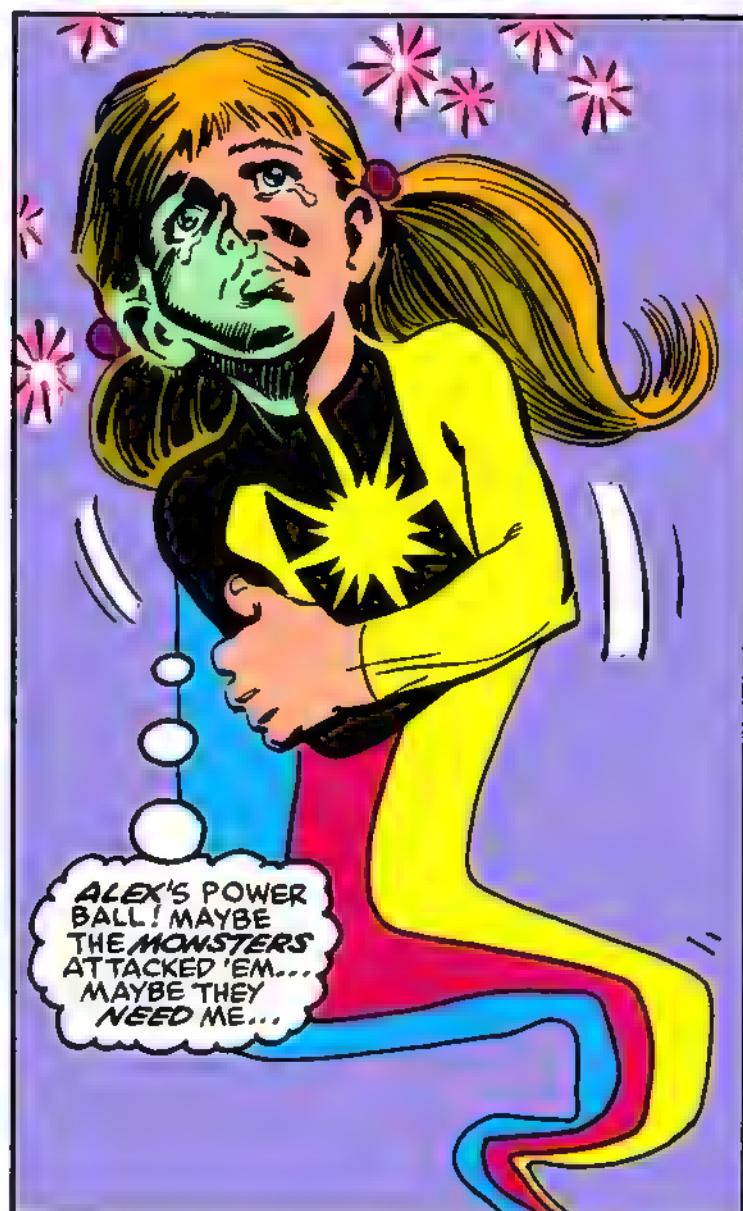
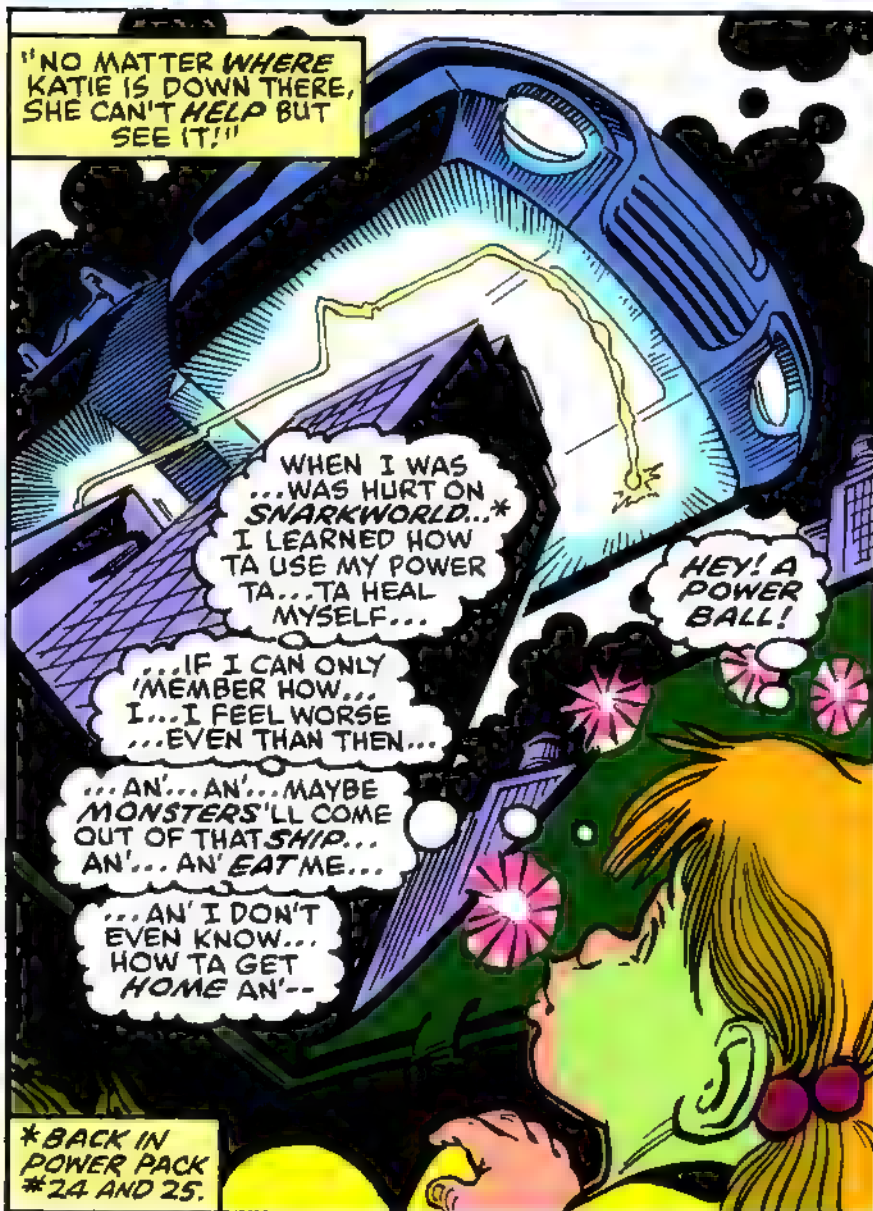
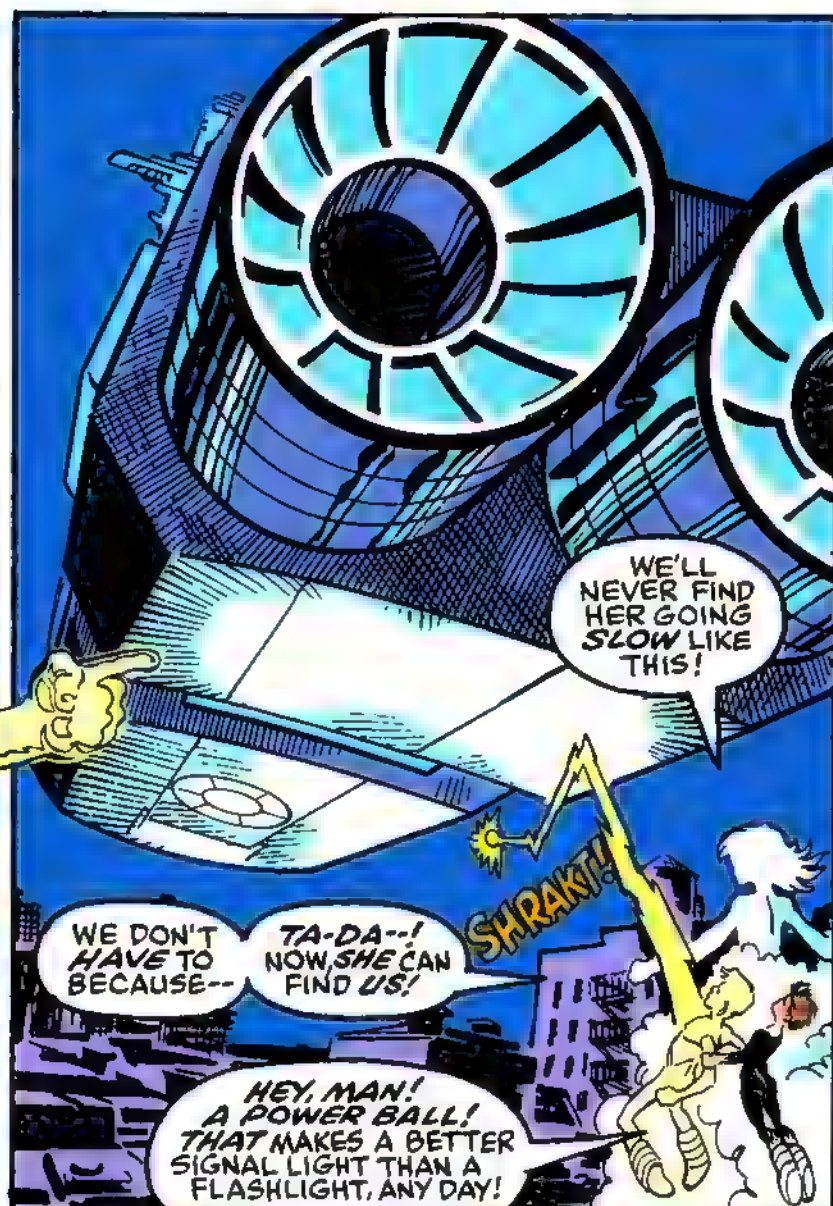
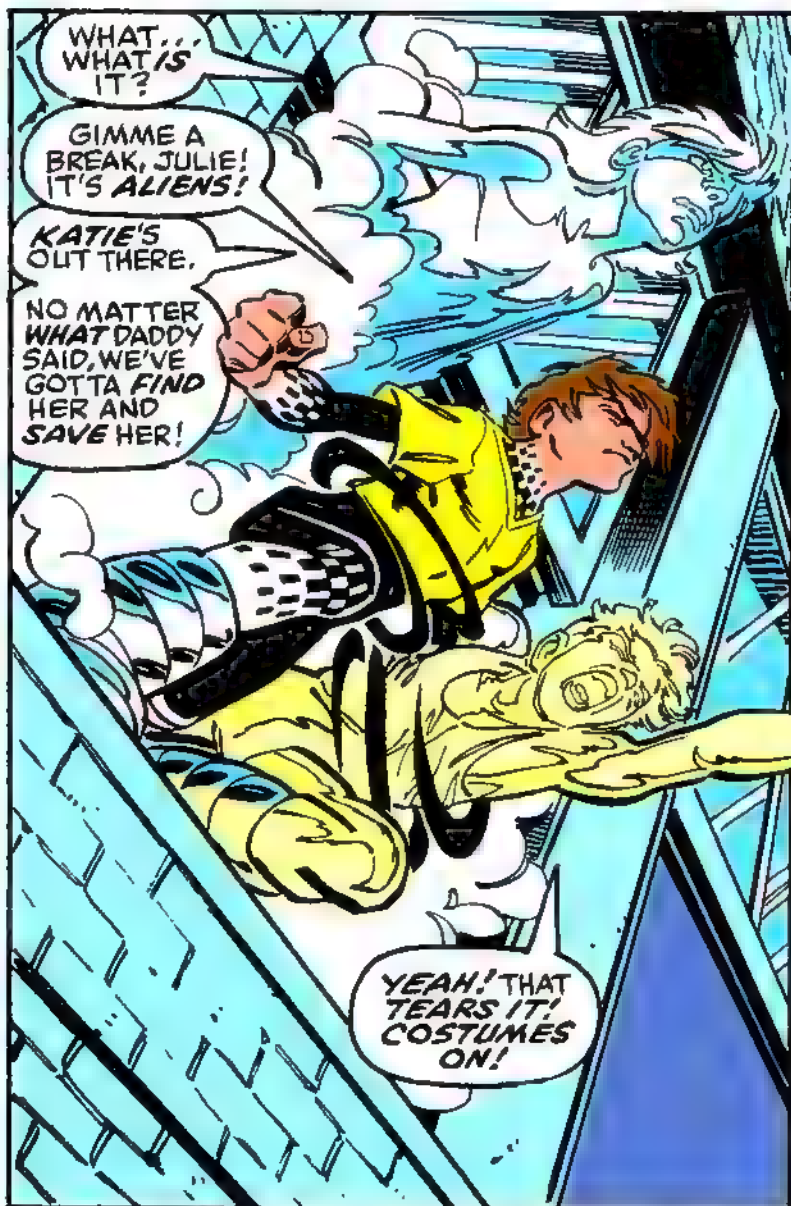
IF WE HAD ANY SENSE, WE WOULD'VE STOPPED HER.

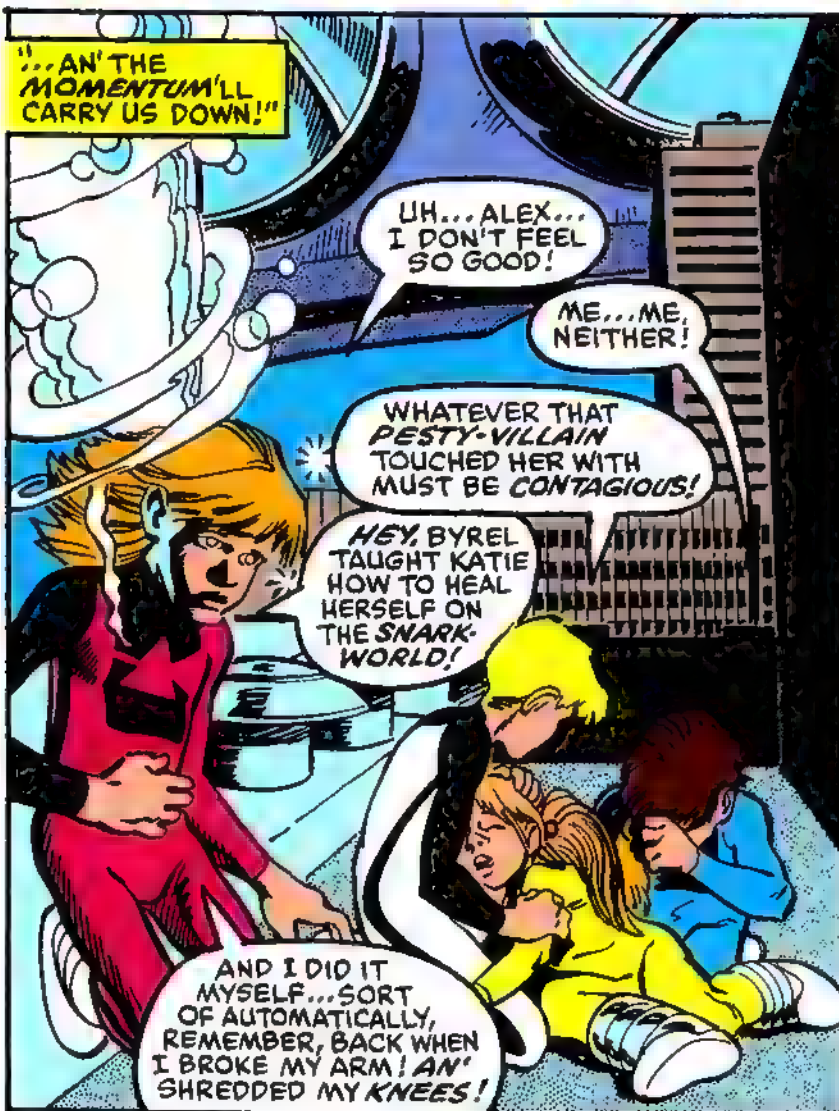
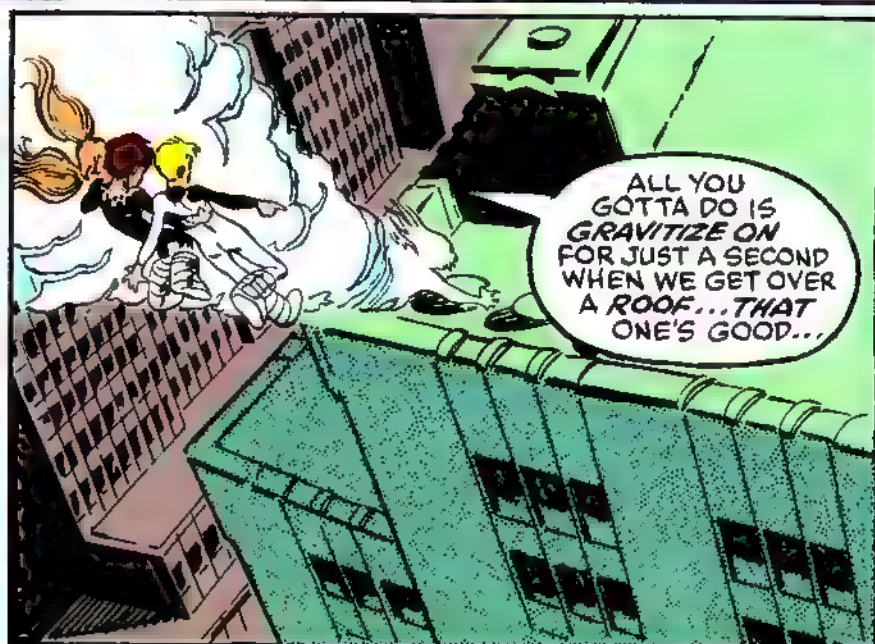
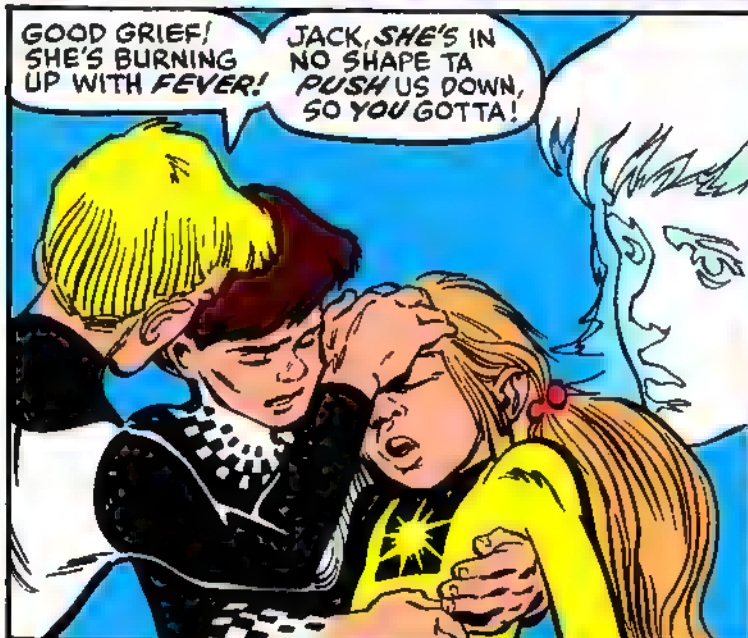
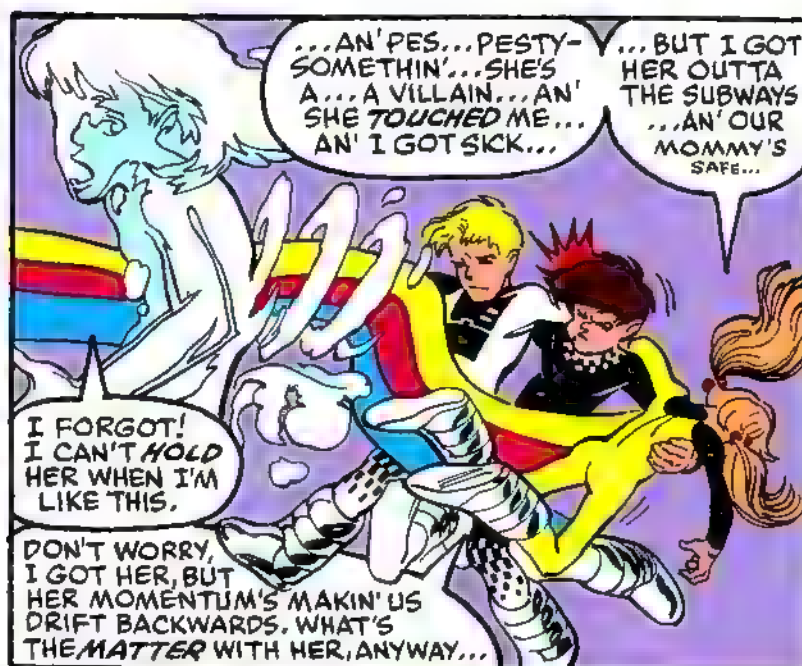
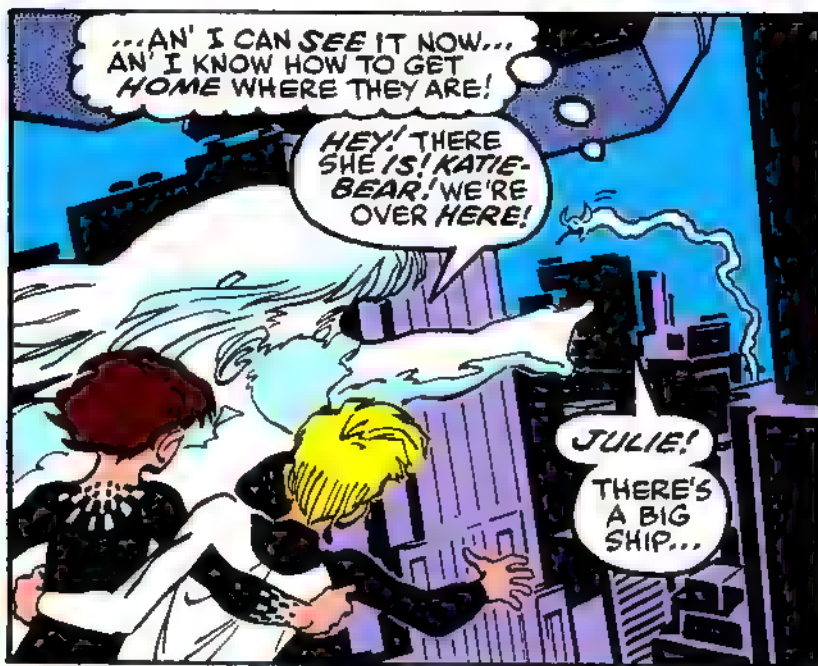
WE TRIED.

WE SHOULD'VE TOLD MOM AN' DAD ABOUT OUR POWERS.

WE CAN'T! WE GOT GROUNDED WHEN THEY THOUGHT WE JUST WENT UP ON THE ROOF.









HEY, IT WORKS! I AM BETTER!
ME, TOO!

KATIE-BEAR, HONEY, ARE... ARE YOU BETTER? HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I'M... OKAY... A'MOST!

HEY... THIS'LL COME IN HANDY IF YOU EVER GET THE MUMPS OR MEASLES, WHADDAYA SAY, KATIE-BEAR?



IT'LL MAKE IT TOUGH TO STAY HOME SICK FROM SCHOOL, THOUGH...!

HA-HA, JACK! VERY FUN--

KROOOM!



OH NO!

EVERYBODY --MOVE!!

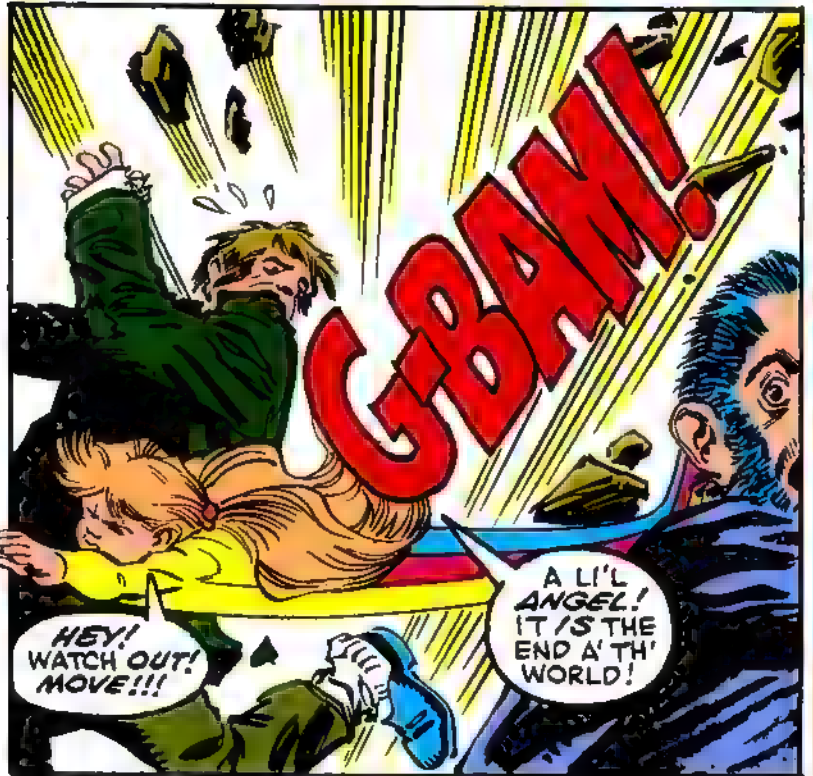
THAT SHIP... OR WHATEVER IT IS... IT'S SPINNING OVER! IT KNOCKED THE CORNER OFF OUR BUILDING!



I GOT IT!

HEY, MORE STUFF'S FALLING! AN' THERE'RE PEOPLE DOWN THERE! I GOTTA SAVE 'EM!

THANKS A LOAD, KATIE! HOW'LL WE STOP OUR DOWNWARD MOMENTUM?



CRASH!

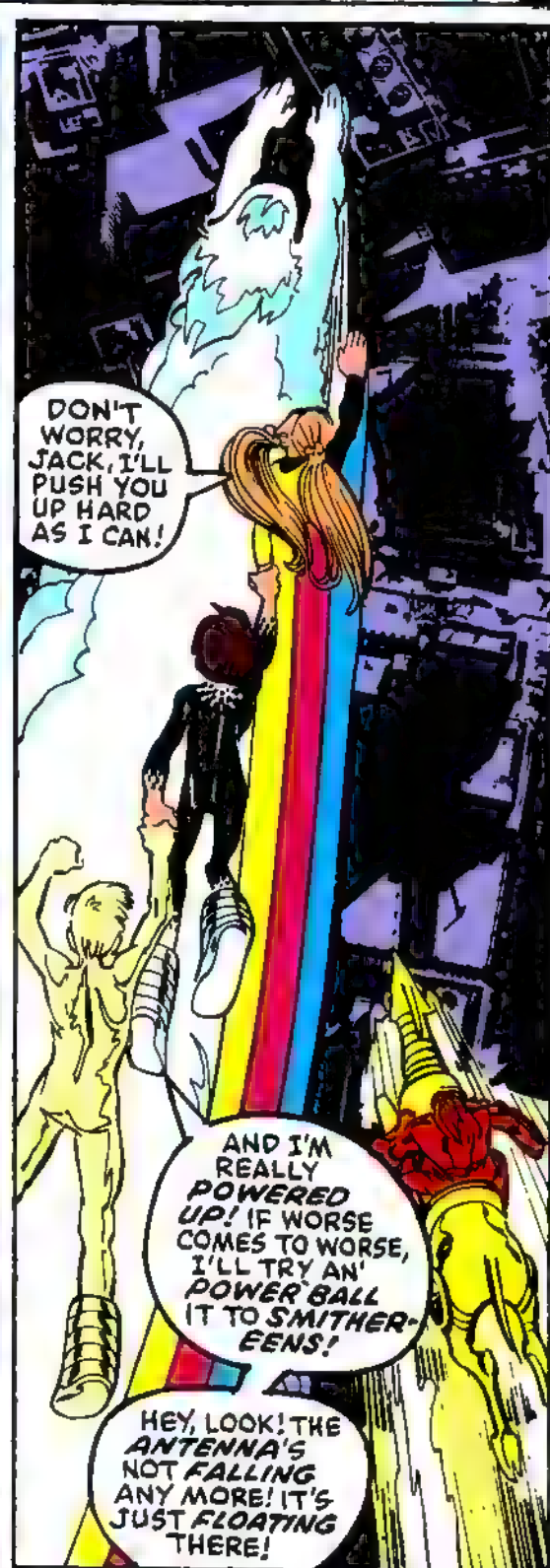
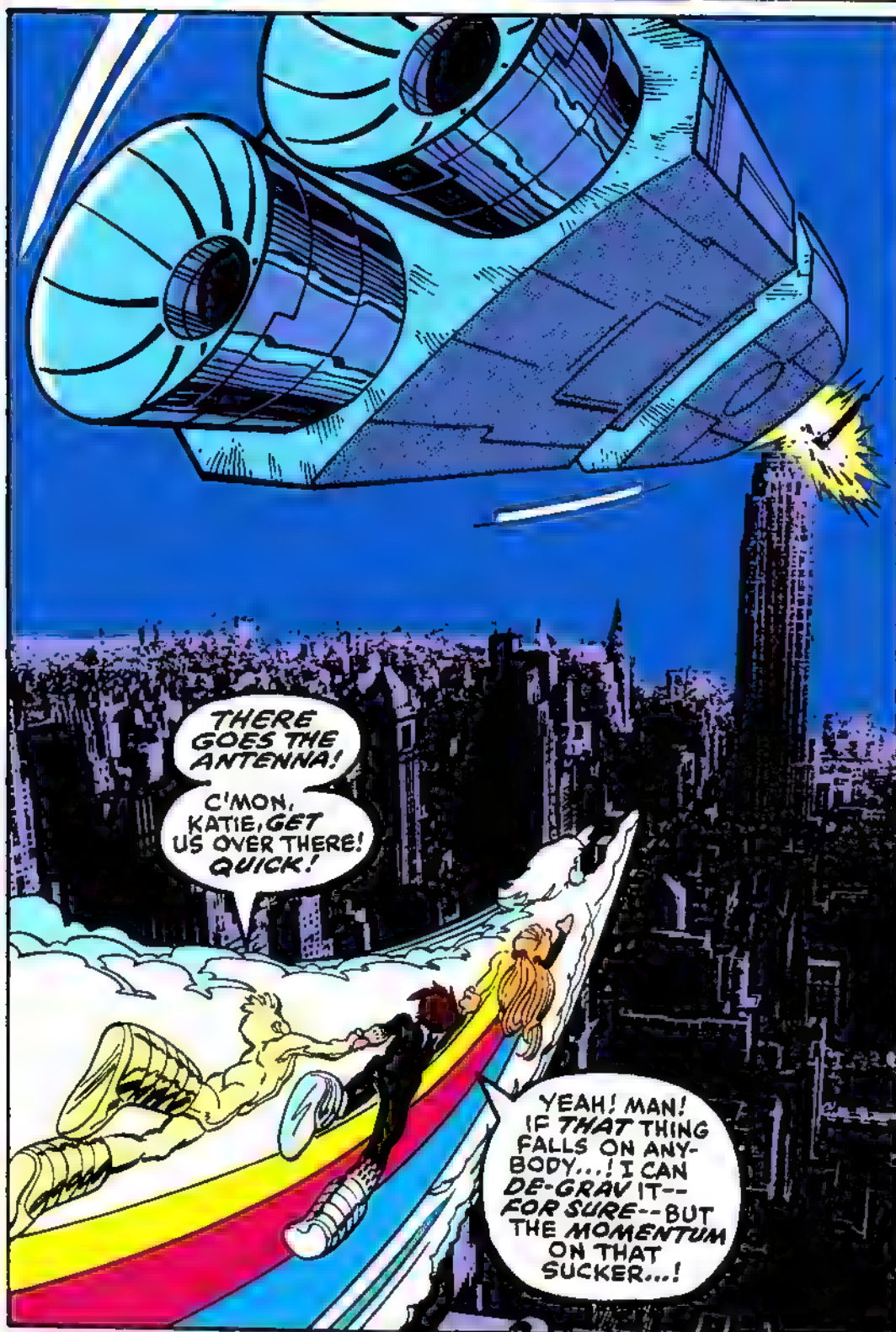
HEY! WATCH OUT! MOVE!!!

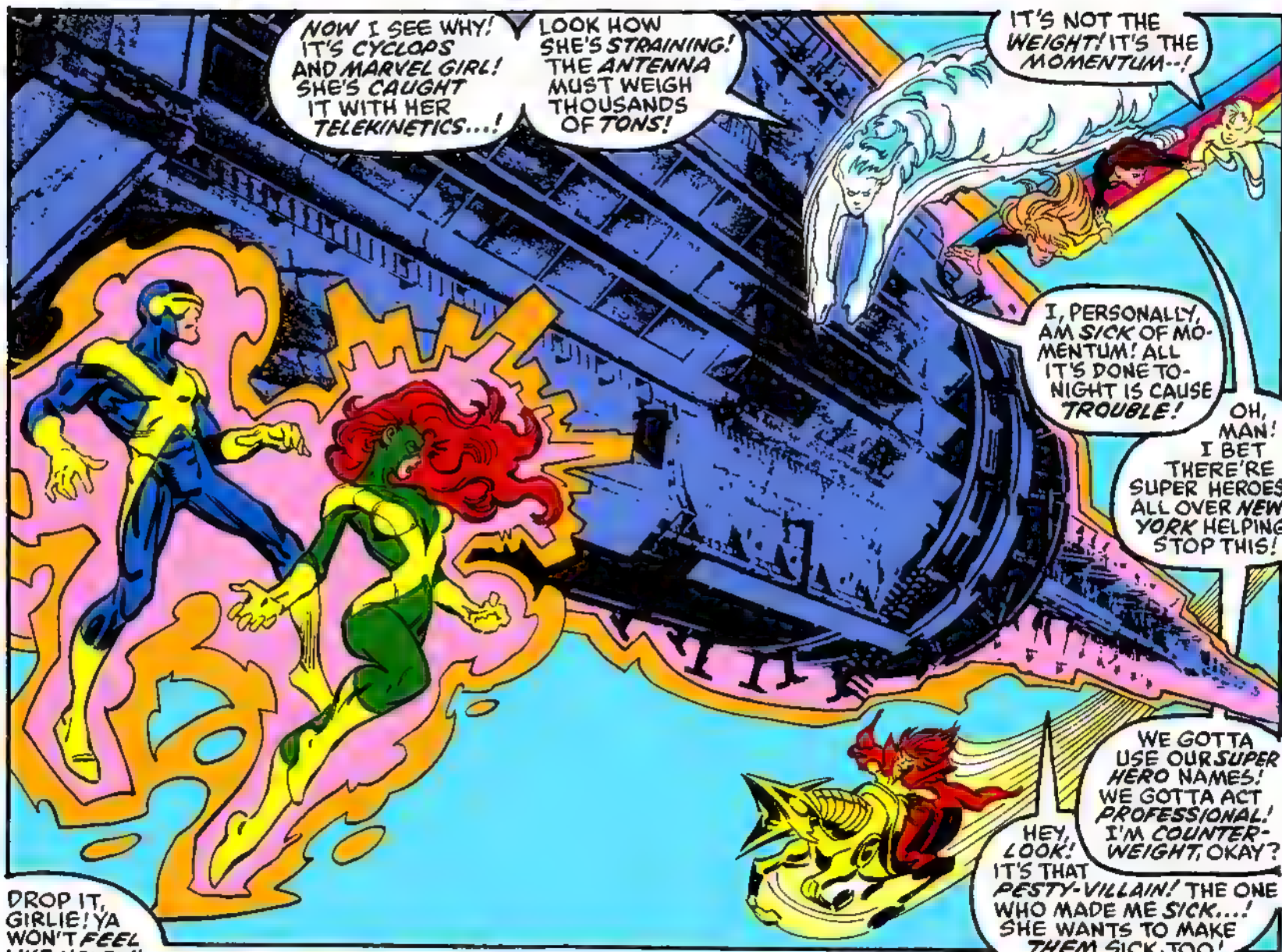
A LI'L ANGEL! IT'S THE END A' TH' WORLD!



DE-GRAVITIZING THIS STUFF WON'T HELP! EVERY TIME WE GRAB SOMETHING ELSE, ITS MOMENTUM GETS ADDED TO OURS!

I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE WE'LL SQUASH WHEN WE SPLAT...!





NOW I SEE WHY!
IT'S CYCLOPS
AND MARVEL GIRL!
SHE'S CAUGHT
IT WITH HER
TELEKINETICS...!

LOOK HOW
SHE'S STRAINING!
THE ANTENNA
MUST WEIGH
THOUSANDS
OF TONS!

IT'S NOT THE
WEIGHT! IT'S THE
MOMENTUM--!

I, PERSONALLY,
AM SICK OF MO-
MENTUM! ALL
IT'S DONE TO-
NIGHT IS CAUSE
TROUBLE!

OH, MAN!
I BET
THERE'RE
SUPER HEROES
ALL OVER NEW
YORK HELPING
STOP THIS!

WE GOTTA
USE OUR SUPER
HERO NAMES!
WE GOTTA ACT
PROFESSIONAL!
I'M COUNTER-
WEIGHT, OKAY?

HEY,
LOOK!
IT'S THAT
PESTY-VILLAIN! THE ONE
WHO MADE ME SICK...!
SHE WANTS TO MAKE
THEM SICK, TOO!

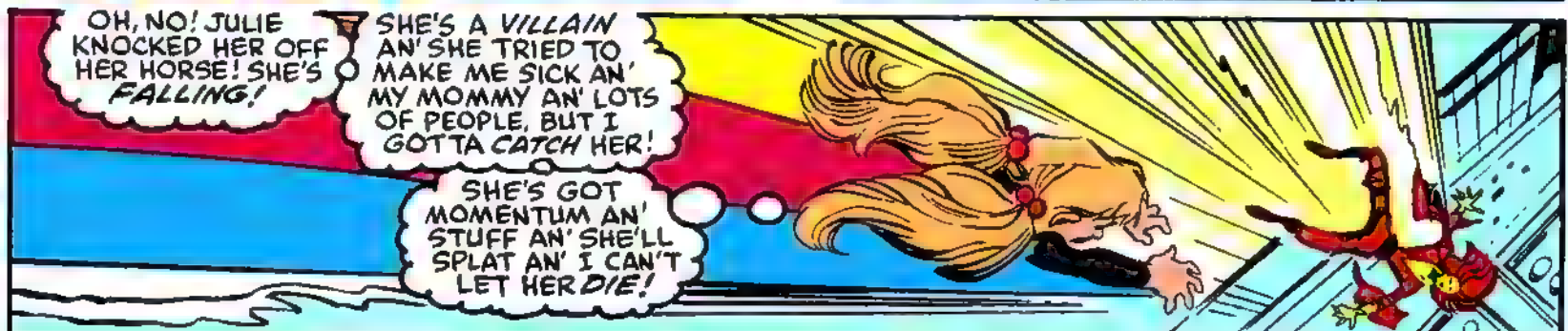
DROP IT,
GIRLIE! YA
WON'T FEEL
LIKE HOLDIN'
THAT THING
MUCH LONGER,
ANYWAY!

NOT
WHEN
PESTILENCE
GETS THROUGH
WITH YOU--
HEY!!

MARVEL GIRL!
CYCLOPS! GET
BACK! I'LL
SAVE YOU!

BEWARE
THE SUPER-
DENSE FORM
OF MOLECULA,
MISTRESS OF
DENSITY!

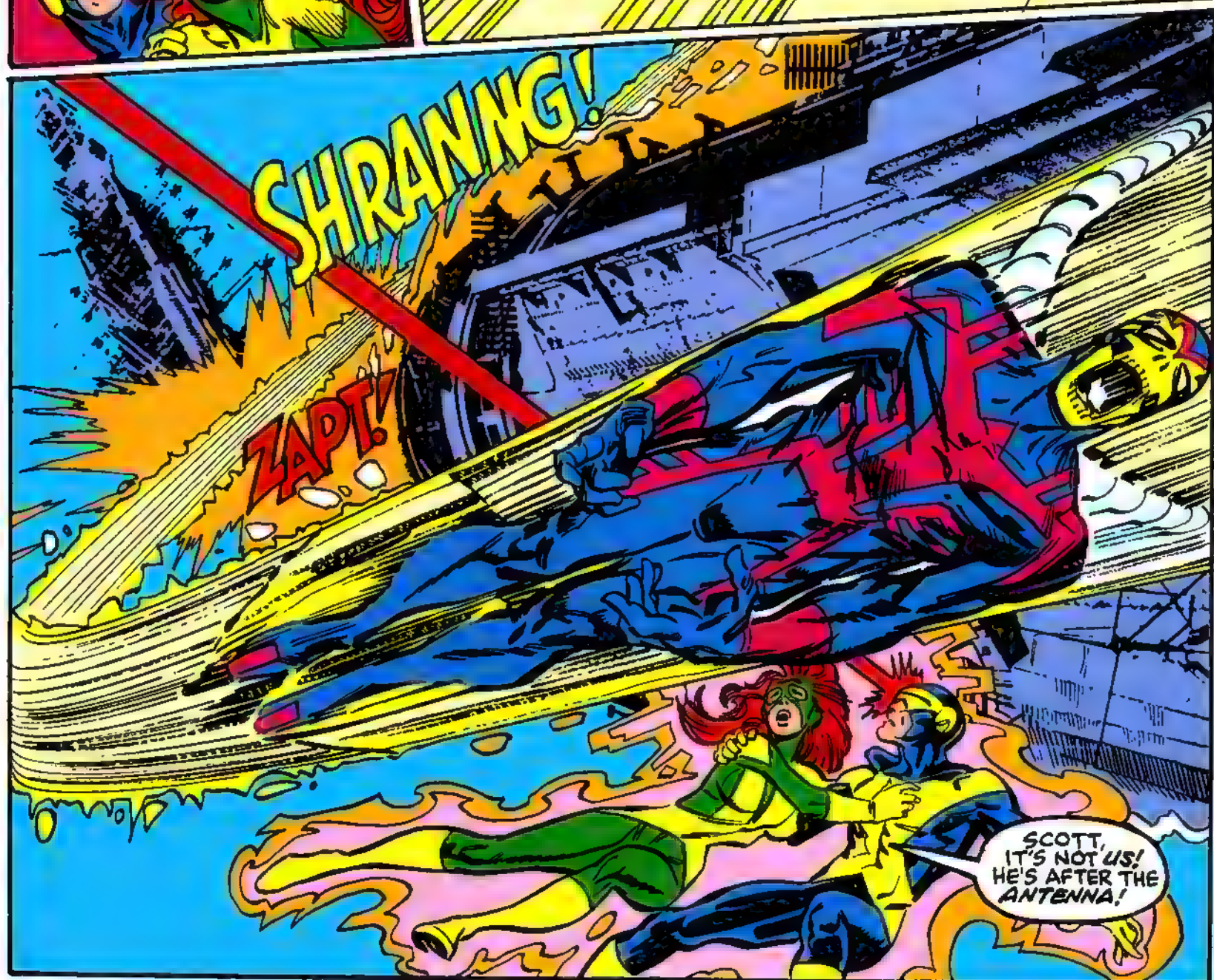
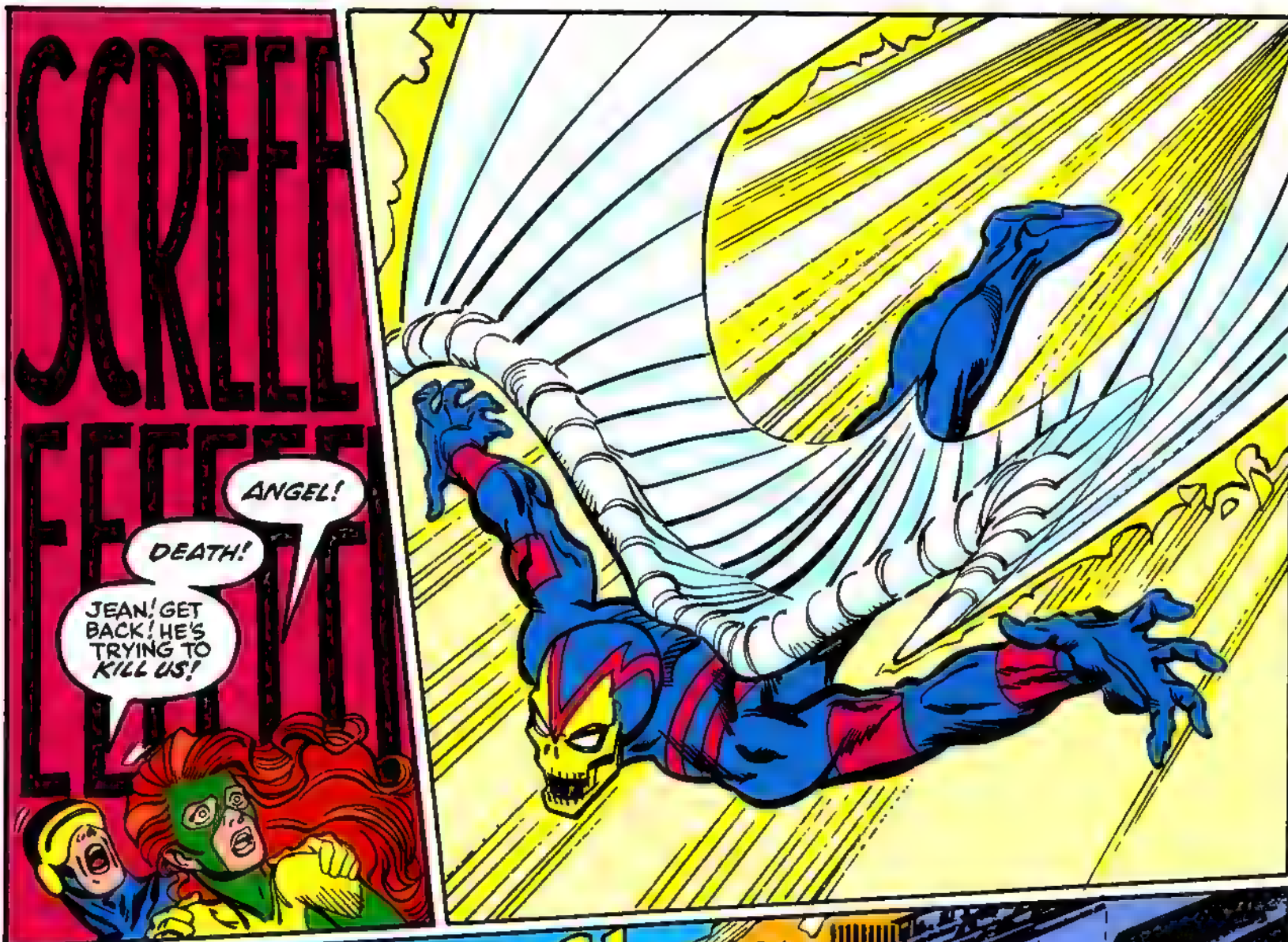
WAK!

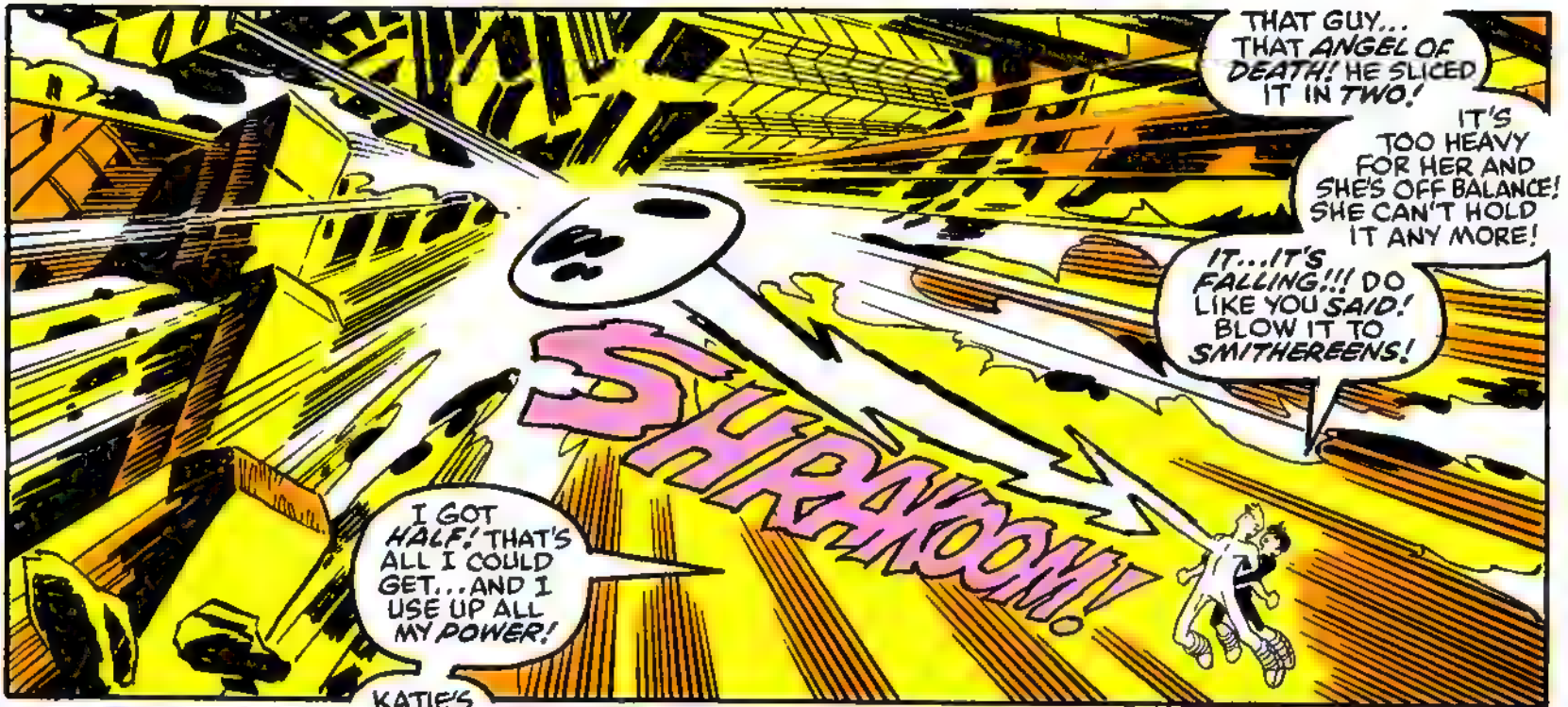


OH, NO! JULIE
KNOCKED HER OFF
HER HORSE! SHE'S
FALLING!

SHE'S A VILLAIN
AN' SHE TRIED TO
MAKE ME SICK AN'
MY MOMMY AN' LOTS
OF PEOPLE, BUT I
GOTTA CATCH HER!

SHE'S GOT
MOMENTUM AN'
STUFF AN' SHE'LL
SPLAT AN' I CAN'T
LET HER DIE!





THAT GUY...
THAT ANGEL OF
DEATH! HE SLICED
IT IN TWO!

IT'S
TOO HEAVY
FOR HER AND
SHE'S OFF BALANCE!
SHE CAN'T HOLD
IT ANY MORE!

IT...IT'S
FALLING!!! DO
LIKE YOU SAID!
BLOW IT TO
SMITHEREENS!

I GOT
HALF! THAT'S
ALL I COULD
GET...AND I
USE UP ALL
MY POWER!

KATIE'S
DOWN
THERE!



KATIE!
KATIE!
LOOK
OUT!

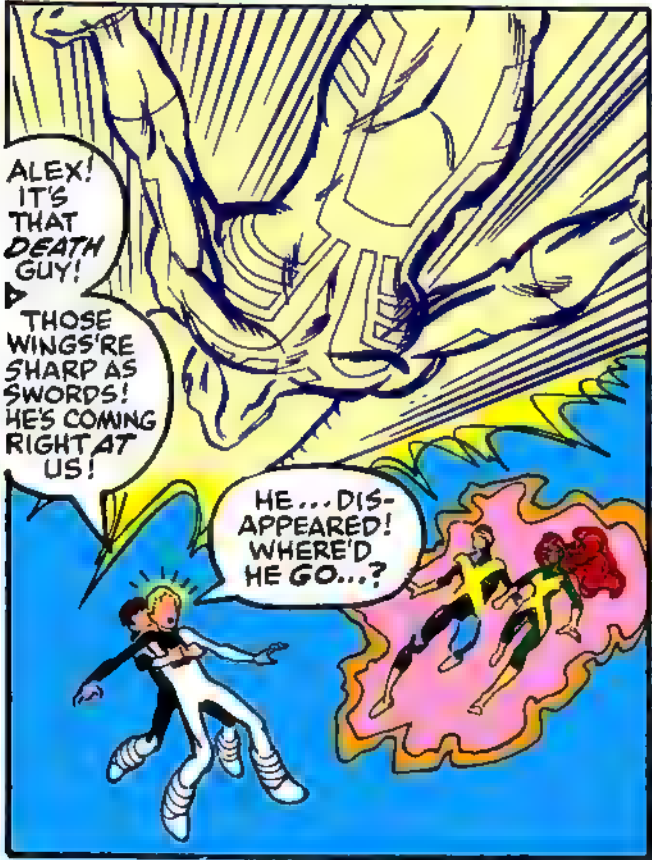
OH
NO! OH
GOSH!



WHUNK!



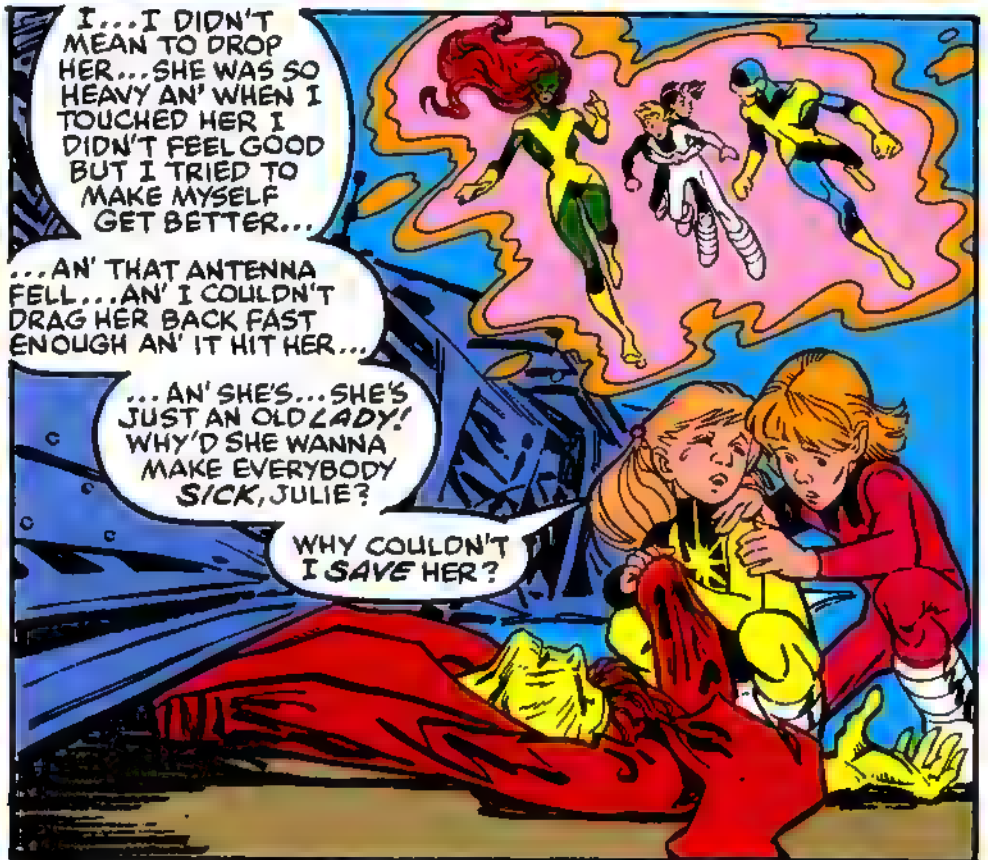
SKWUDGE



ALEX!
IT'S
THAT
DEATH
GUY!

THOSE
WINGS'RE
SHARP AS
SWORDS!
HE'S COMING
RIGHT AT
US!

HE...DIS-
APPEARED!
WHERE'D
HE GO...?



I...I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DROP
HER...SHE WAS SO
HEAVY AN' WHEN I
TOUCHED HER I
DIDN'T FEEL GOOD
BUT I TRIED TO
MAKE MYSELF
GET BETTER...

...AN' THAT ANTENNA
FELL...AN' I COULDN'T
DRAG HER BACK FAST
ENOUGH AN' IT HIT HER...

...AN' SHE'S...SHE'S
JUST AN OLD LADY!
WHY'D SHE WANNA
MAKE EVERYBODY
SICK, JULIE?

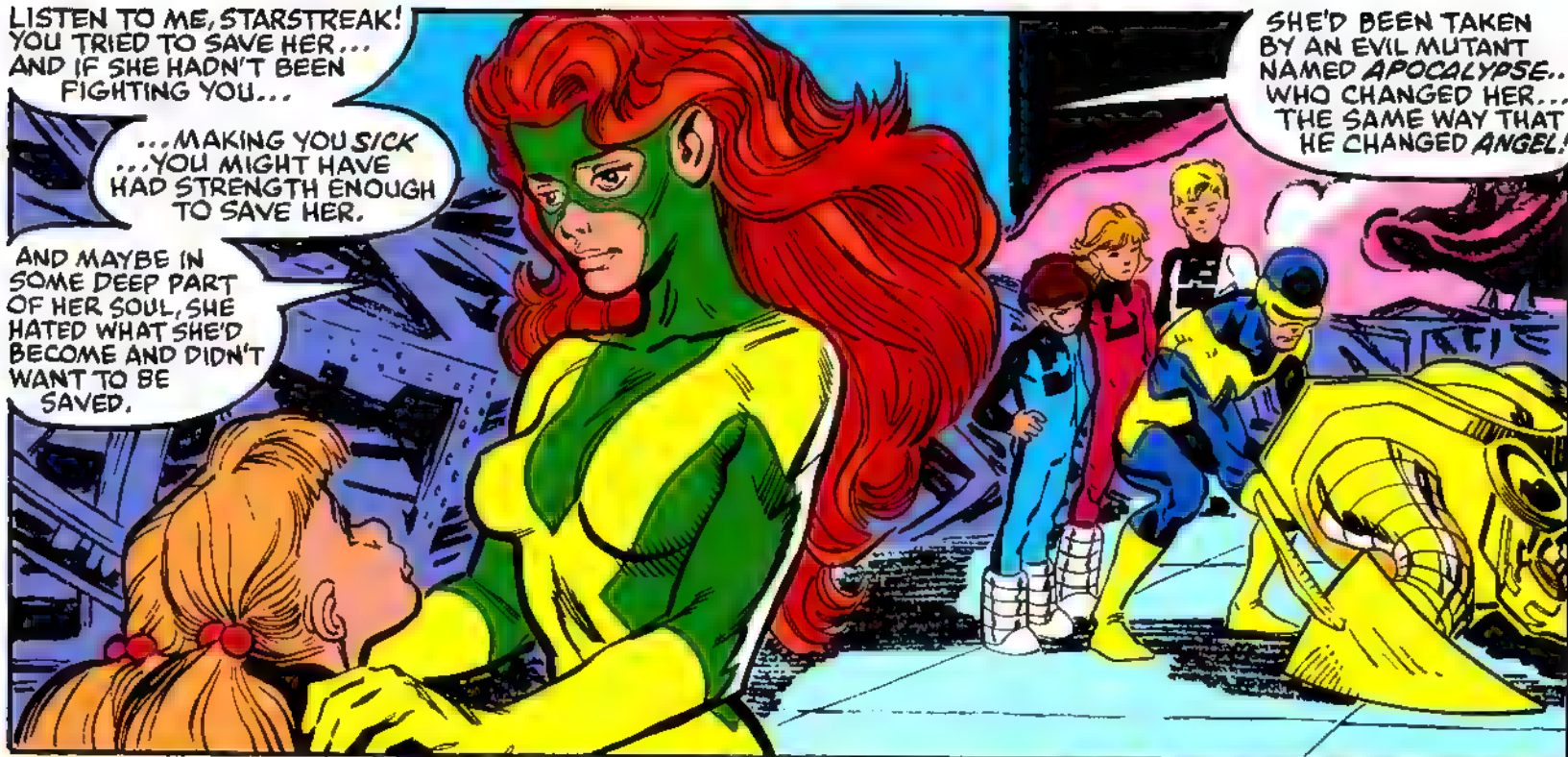
WHY COULDN'T
I SAVE HER?

LISTEN TO ME, STARSTREAK!
YOU TRIED TO SAVE HER...
AND IF SHE HADN'T BEEN
FIGHTING YOU...

...MAKING YOU SICK
...YOU MIGHT HAVE
HAD STRENGTH ENOUGH
TO SAVE HER.

AND MAYBE IN
SOME DEEP PART
OF HER SOUL, SHE
HATED WHAT SHE'D
BECOME AND DIDN'T
WANT TO BE
SAVED.

SHE'D BEEN TAKEN
BY AN EVIL MUTANT
NAMED APOCALYPSE...
WHO CHANGED HER...
THE SAME WAY THAT
HE CHANGED ANGEL!



THAT FLYING
GUY WAS
ANGEL?!? I
THOUGHT HE
WAS A HERO!
I THOUGHT
HE WAS
DEAD!

WE
THOUGHT
SO TOO!

THE VILLAIN WHO MADE
HIM INTO THAT... THAT
MONSTER OWNS THAT
GIANT SHIP...

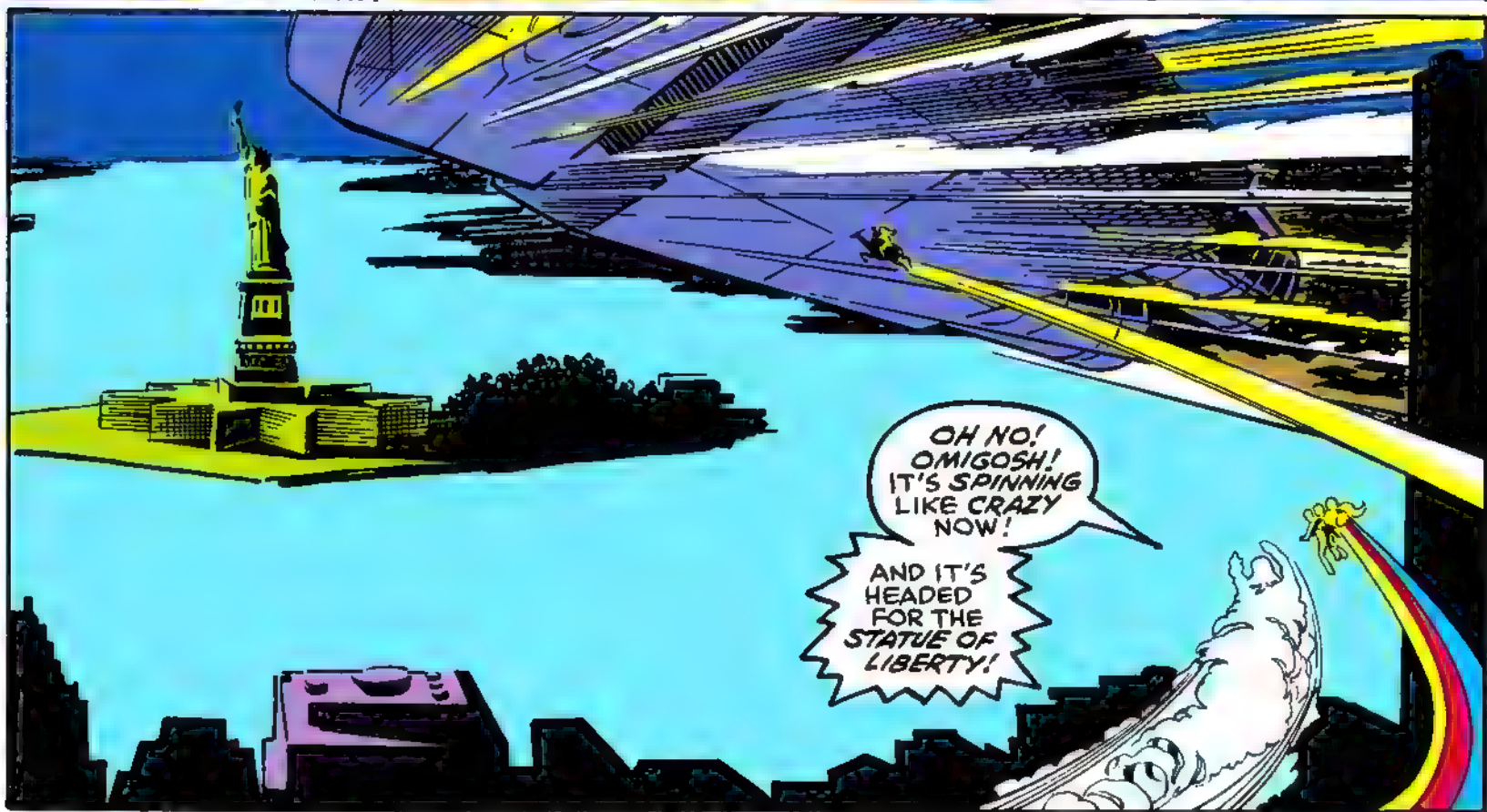
...AND
HE WANTS
TO DESTROY
NEW YORK...
AND ALL OF
HUMANITY!

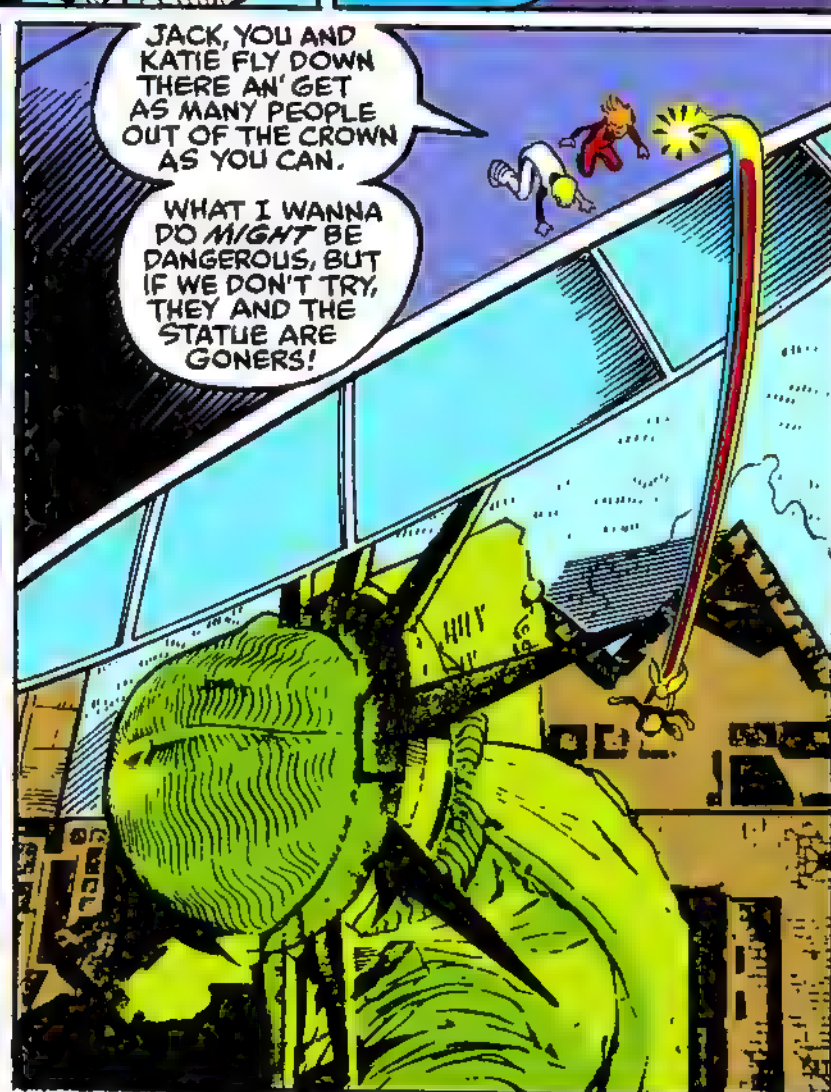
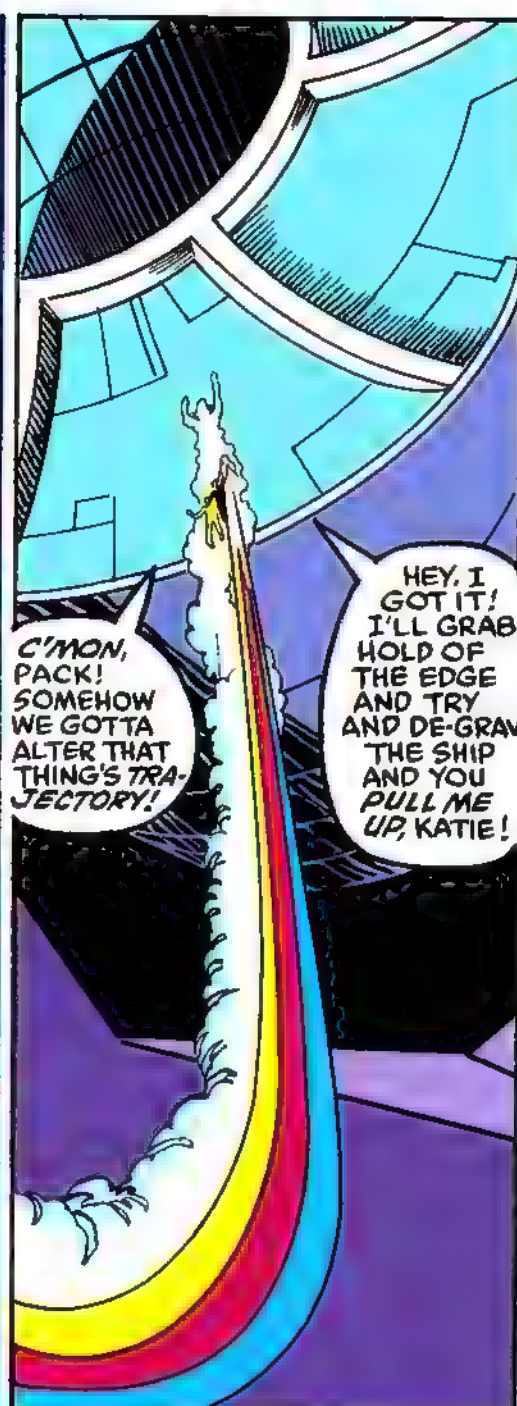
WE'RE COUNTING
ON YOU TO PRO-
TECT THE CITY
WHILE MARVEL
GIRL AND I CON-
FRONT HIM IN
HIS SHIP!

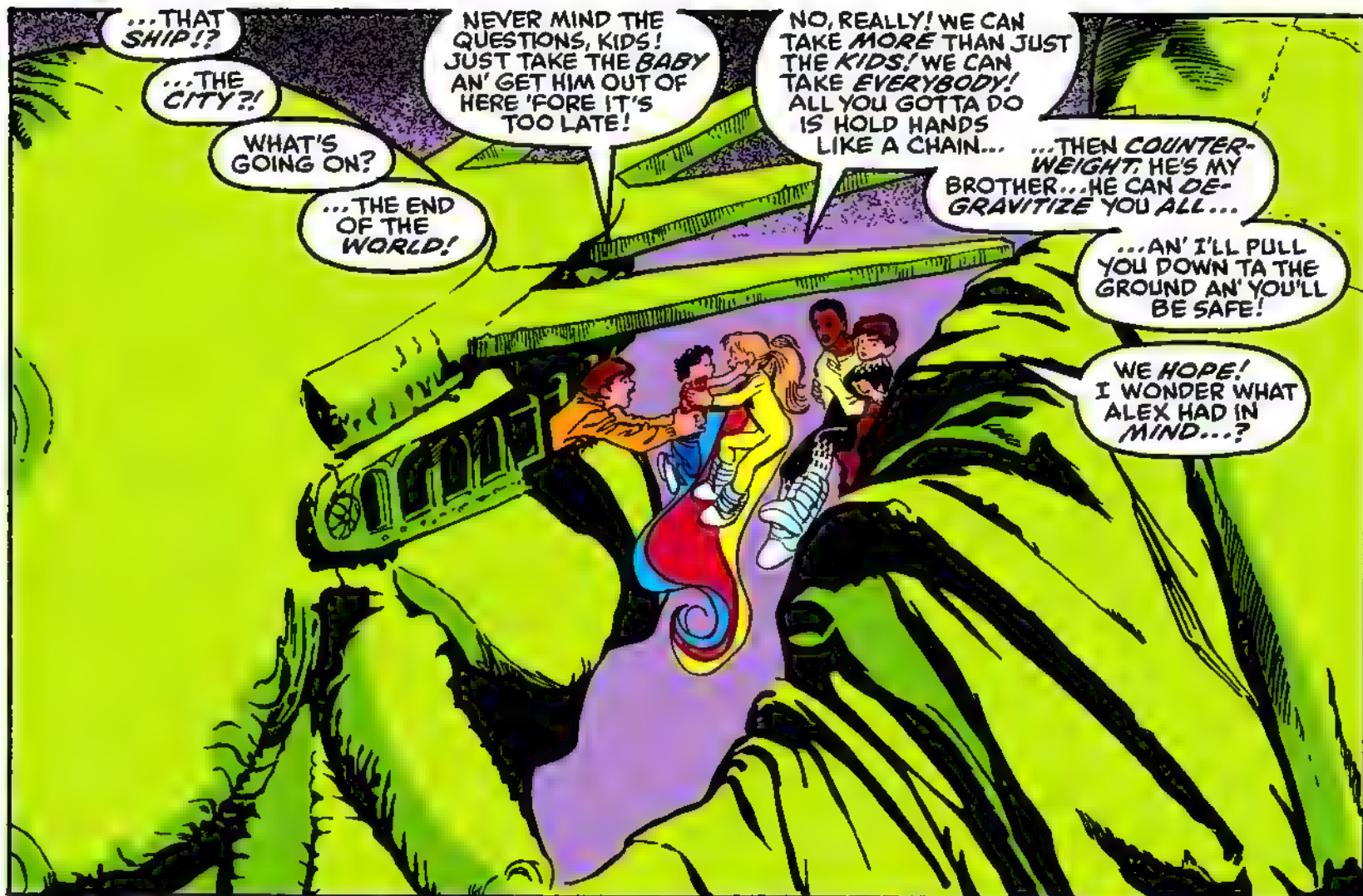
WOW! THEY
TREATED US LIKE
PROFESSIONALS!
MAN, OH, MAN!

SO MAYBE
WE OUGHTA ACT
LIKE PROFESSIONALS,
OKAY? REMEMBER
THAT SHIP? WELL,
LET'S GET UP
THERE AND--

HOLY COW!
WE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING!







BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Behold the savage tempest which I have summoned to blast ye back to the Stygian slime from whence ye came!"

—Thor THOR #388

ITEM: Each week we get thousands of requests for an official Marvel Fan Club. Always anxious to please our ever-faithful fans, we've finally decided to listen to the will of the people! That's right—we've already begun work on putting together a really nifty club for our frantic fans. . . and we'll reveal all the details on how to join in the coming months. We've only got one problem. What should we call it? Since the club was your idea in the first place, we're turning to you for help! Please send your suggestions for a name to:

NAME THE CLUB
c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

ITEM: In case you haven't already guessed, we're all real proud of writer *Doug Murray*. Not only has he made THE NAM one of the most interesting comics produced today, but he also won The Veterans Achievement Award for Entertainment from BRAVO, the Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization. Doug's work was chosen over some pretty heavy competition. . . like the movie "Platoon". Way to go, Doug!

ITEM: Major congrats are also due writer-artist *Jean Giraud* whose *Moebius Graphic Novel #1: Upon a Star* was recently selected for an Award Of Excellence by the Mead Paper Company in their latest monthly competition for excellence in the

graphic arts. Only five entries which exemplify the highest standards in printing, design, illustration and typography are chosen for this top distinction per month. This graphic novel will also be eligible for Mead's *Top of the Top Award* competition, which will be judged in January 1988 by an independent panel of graphic experts. We all wish good ol' Jean Giraud the best of luck in the upcoming finals, and we'll let you know how he makes out!

ITEM: Bob Budiansky's Pro File is looming below so we'll have to wrap up the Itemized section of the BSPI. So, until next month, read read READ! Your mind will thank you.

Pro File on: BOB BUDIANSKY

Editor on: AIR RAIDERS; VISIONARIES; WILLOW, ELVIRA, and PINOCCHIO AND THE EMPEROR OF THE NIGHT movie adaptations; MARVEL PRESS Posters; toy company storyline development; miscellaneous; etc. and so on . . .

Marvel freelance credits (past): Penciler/plotter on GHOST RIDER, SUB-MARINER Limited Series, various other stuff.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Writer, occasional cover penciler on TRANSFORMERS.

My hobbies are: Stargazing, skiing, taping '60's pop music, snorkeling.

The single work of which I am most proud is: If I pick one, all the others would get jealous (but I kinda like the pencils on the cover of GHOST RIDER #35).

My pet peeves are: Filling out questionnaires like this.

My place of birth is: The Bronx, New York (wanna make somethin' of it?)

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Catching a sinking line drive in centerfield to save a ball game for Marvel a couple of summers ago.

My oddest habit is: Giving undue importance to trivial facts.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Tom Hanks.

The reason I got into comics was: I thought it would be more fun than Civil Engineering.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Someone else.

My favorite performers are: The Talking Heads, Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Ronald Reagan.

The last good book I read was: "The Panda's Thumb" by Stephen Jay Gould

The last good movie I saw was: Robocop.

The biggest influences on my work include: Gardner Fox, Stan Lee, John Buscema, Jack Kirby, Steven Spielberg.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write, pencil, ink and color a book of a character that I've created. I'll let the letterers keep their jobs.

The worst part of my job is: Stapling all those hundreds of thousands of comics together before we send them to the stores.

When nobody's looking I like to: Nap.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm much better looking than the drawing of me on the right.



✓ Checklist

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #251
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #35
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #29
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #9
- ☐ SLEDGE HAMMER! #1
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #15
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #60 — Double-sized! Fall of the Mutants issue!
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN ANNUAL #11
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #2
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #338
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #8
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #3 — Two stories for the price of one!
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #297
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #11
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #55 — The return of the Mystic Great Beasts!
- ☐ G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #4
- ☐ AVENGERS #288

- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #340 — The Hulk vs. Wolverine!
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #203
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #208
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #8
- ☐ G.I. JOE #68
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #226 — Double-sized!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #311
- ☐ IRON MAN #227
- ☐ THE 'NAM #15
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #135
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #18 — Magneto Triumphant!
- ☐ ELFQUEST #31
- ☐ POWER PACK #35
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #37
- ☐ THOR #388 — Thor loses his most prized possession!

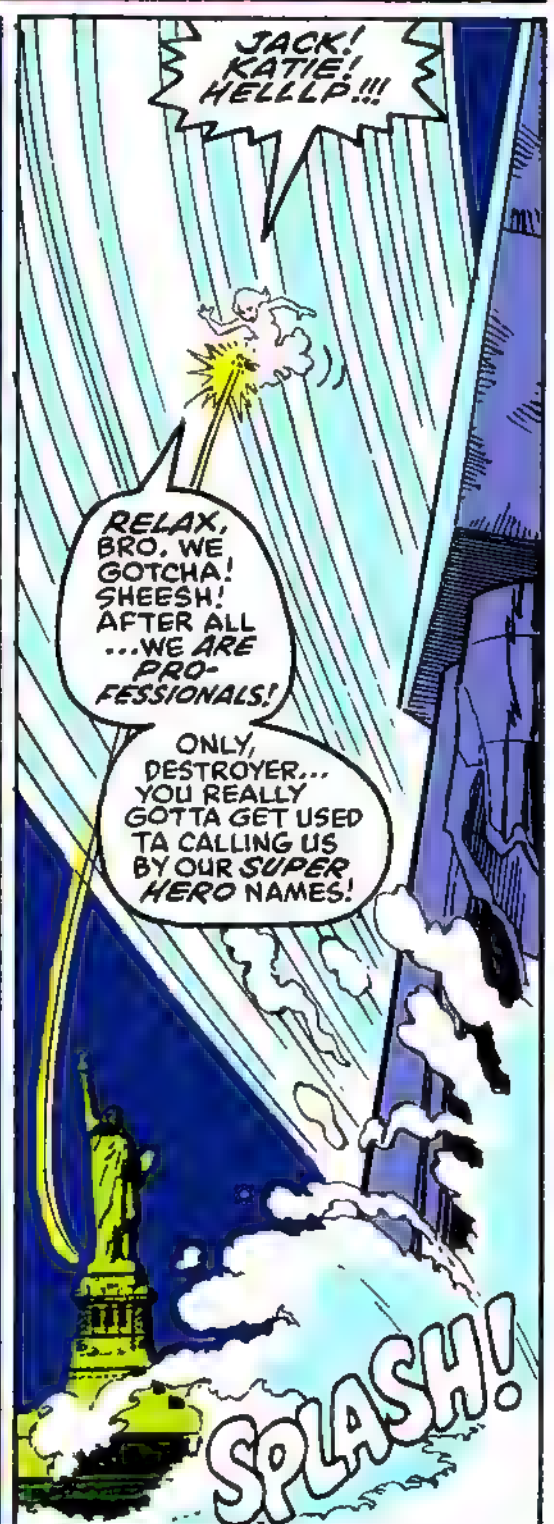
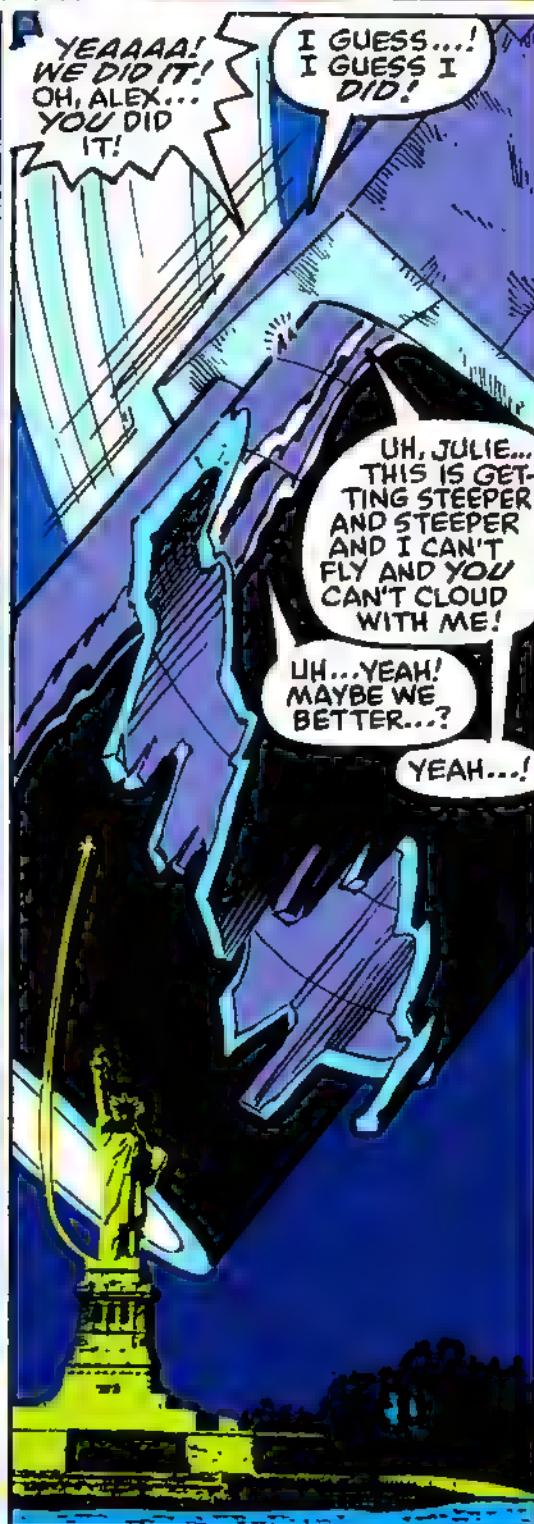
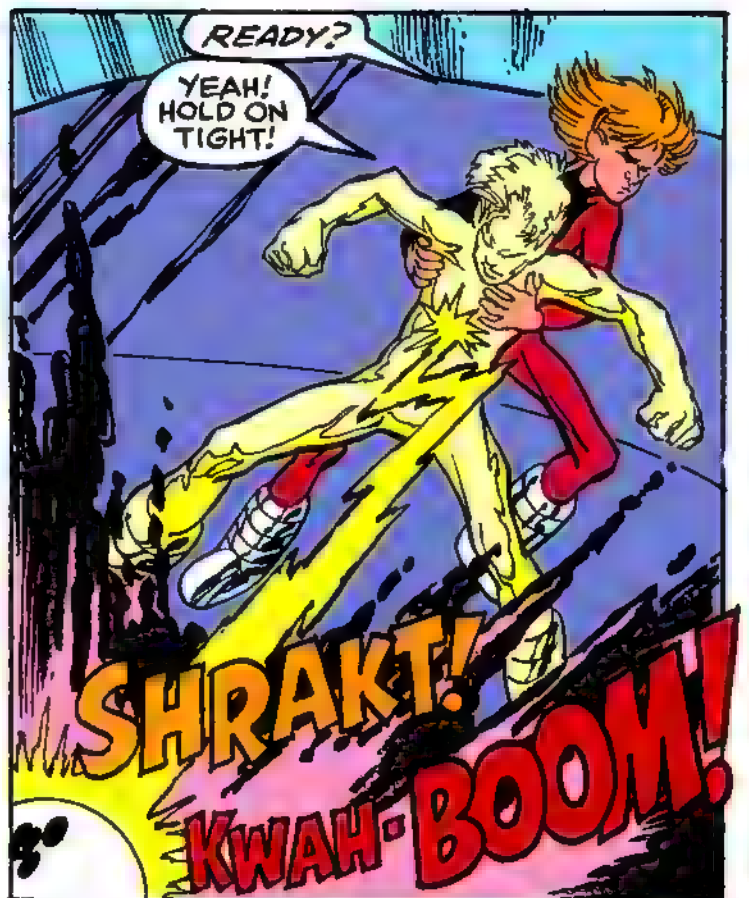
- ☐ X-FACTOR #25 — The double-sized issue that's been two years in the making!
- ☐ OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION #20 — The wrap-up to the Book of the Dead.

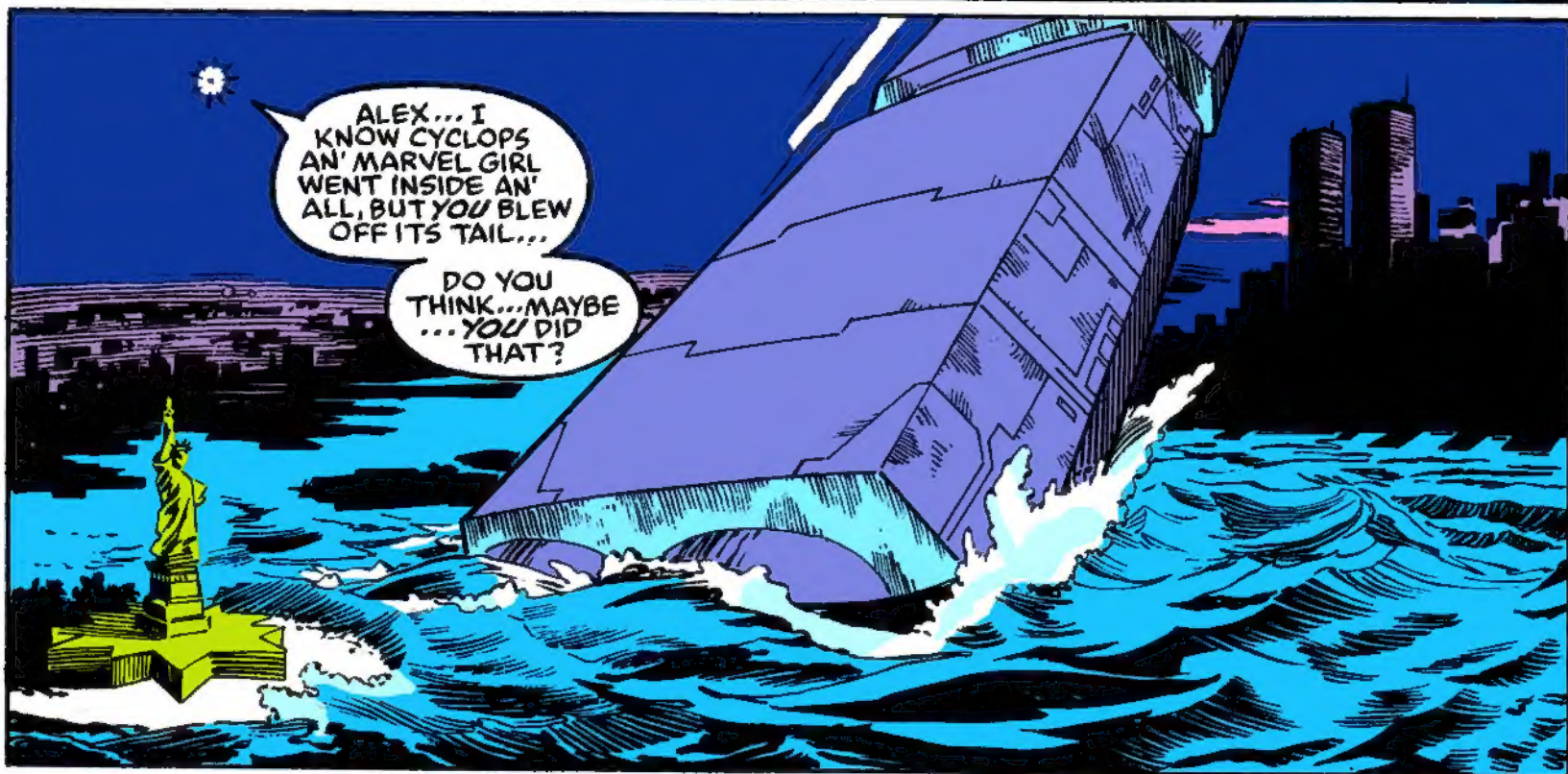
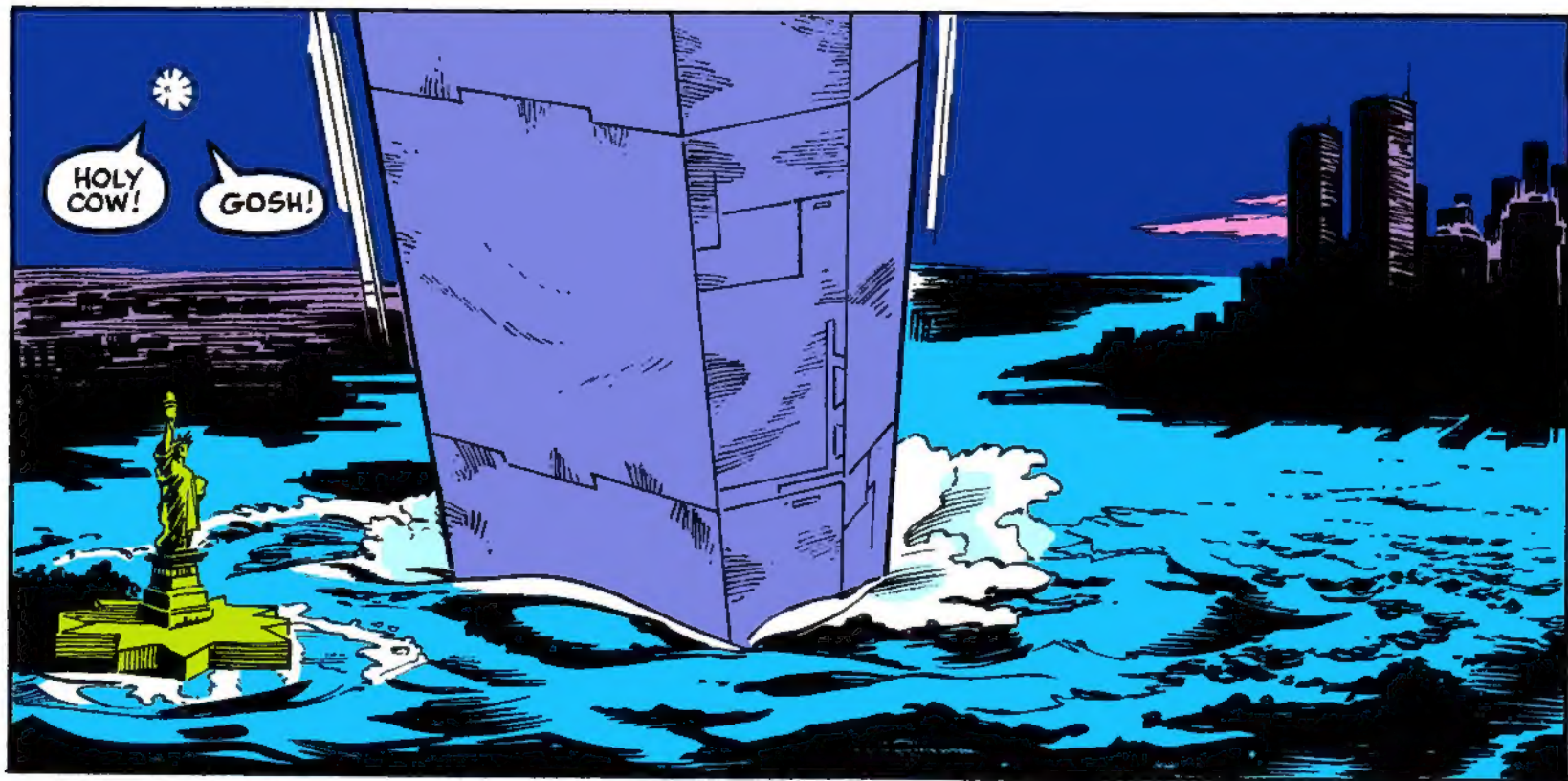
MARVEL BOOKSHELF

- ☐ DAREDEVIL TRADE PAPERBACK — Re-presenting DAREDEVIL #s 227-233 — Written by FRANK MILLER, illustrated by DAVID MAZZUCHELLI
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5 — The Kree/Skrull War! Avengers in Olympus!

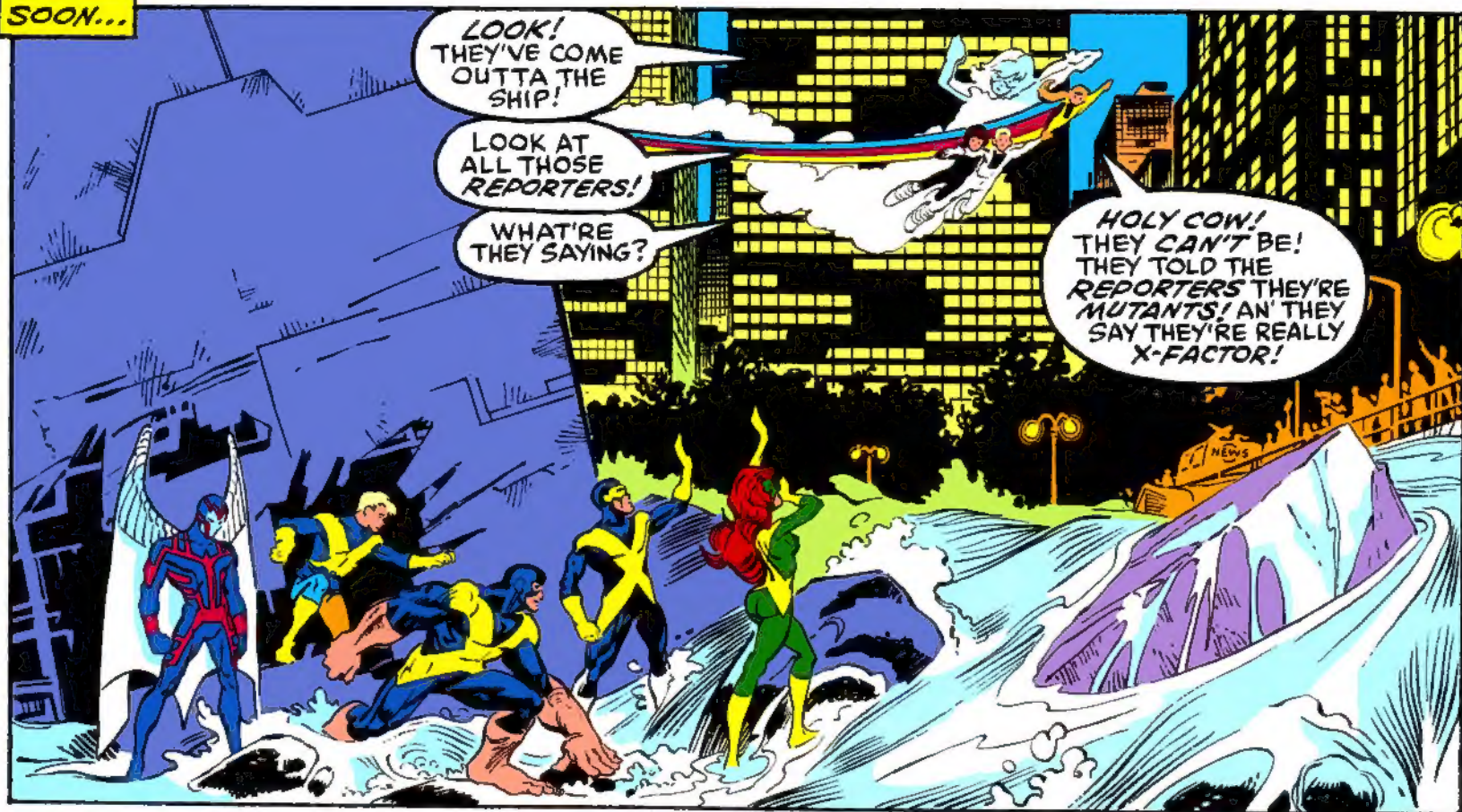
MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #59
- ☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #9
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #144





SOON...

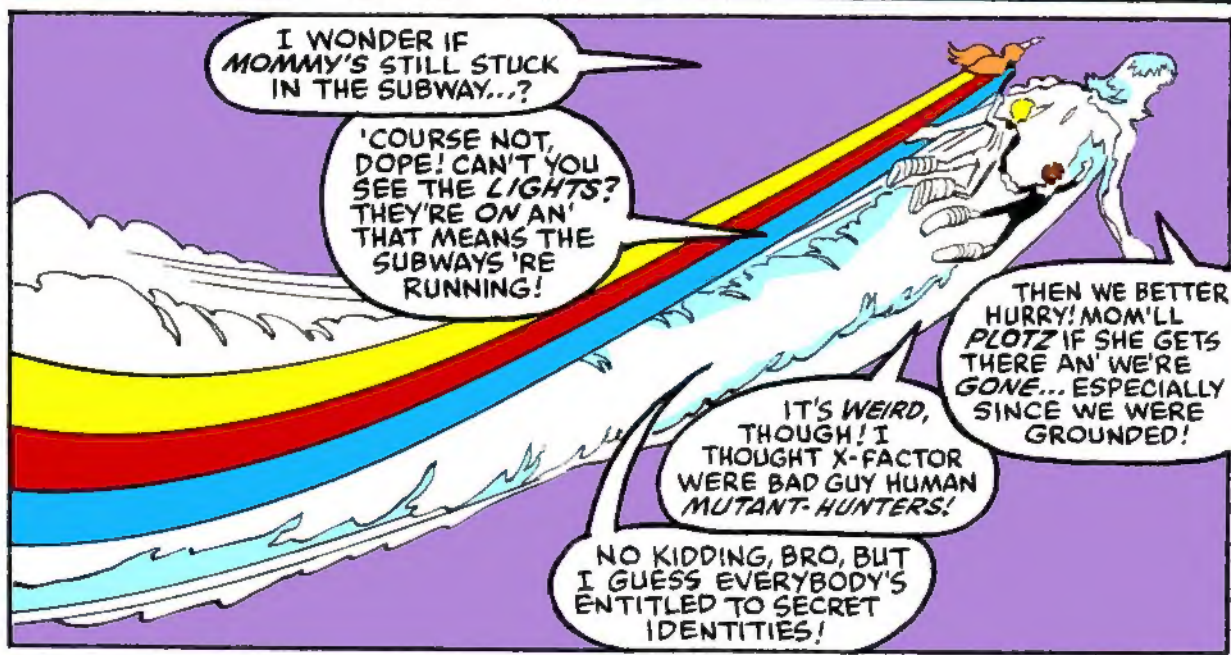


LOOK!
THEY'VE COME
OUTTA THE
SHIP!

LOOK AT
ALL THOSE
REPORTERS!

WHAT'RE
THEY SAYING?

HOLY COW!
THEY CAN'T BE!
THEY TOLD THE
REPORTERS THEY'RE
MUTANTS! AN' THEY
SAY THEY'RE REALLY
X-FACTOR!



I WONDER IF
MOMMY'S STILL STUCK
IN THE SUBWAY...?

'COURSE NOT,
DOPE! CAN'T YOU
SEE THE LIGHTS?
THEY'RE ON AN'
THAT MEANS THE
SUBWAYS'RE
RUNNING!

THEN WE BETTER
HURRY! MOM'LL
PLOTZ IF SHE GETS
THERE AN' WE'RE
GONE... ESPECIALLY
SINCE WE WERE
GROUNDED!

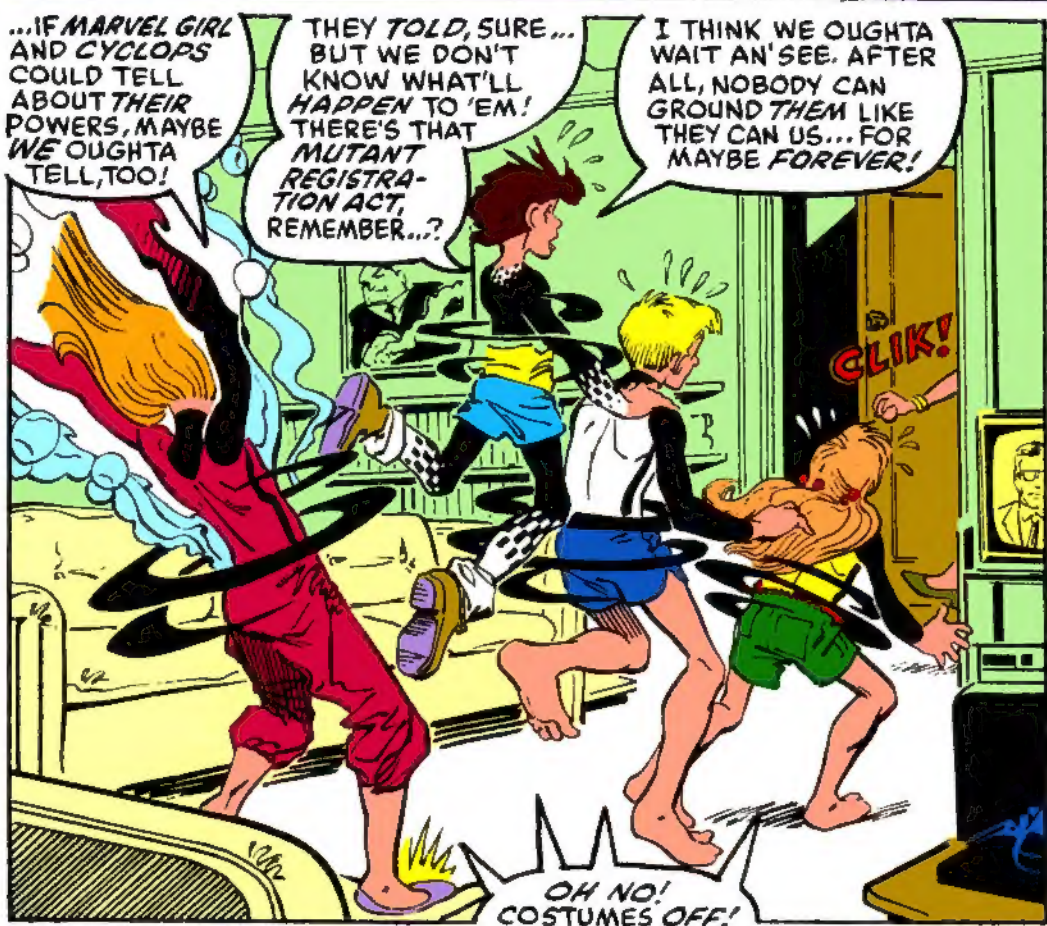
IT'S WEIRD,
THOUGH! I
THOUGHT X-FACTOR
WERE BAD GUY HUMAN
MUTANT-HUNTERS!

NO KIDDING, BRO, BUT
I GUESS EVERYBODY'S
ENTITLED TO SECRET
IDENTITIES!



EVEN US,
RIGHT? OUR
SECRET
IDENTITIES'RE
KIDS, BUT WE'RE
REALLY SUPER HERO
PROFESSIONALS!

REALLY, JACK,
I'M GLAD
WE WENT OUT
TONIGHT, TOO,
BUT I STILL
FEEL GUILTY...

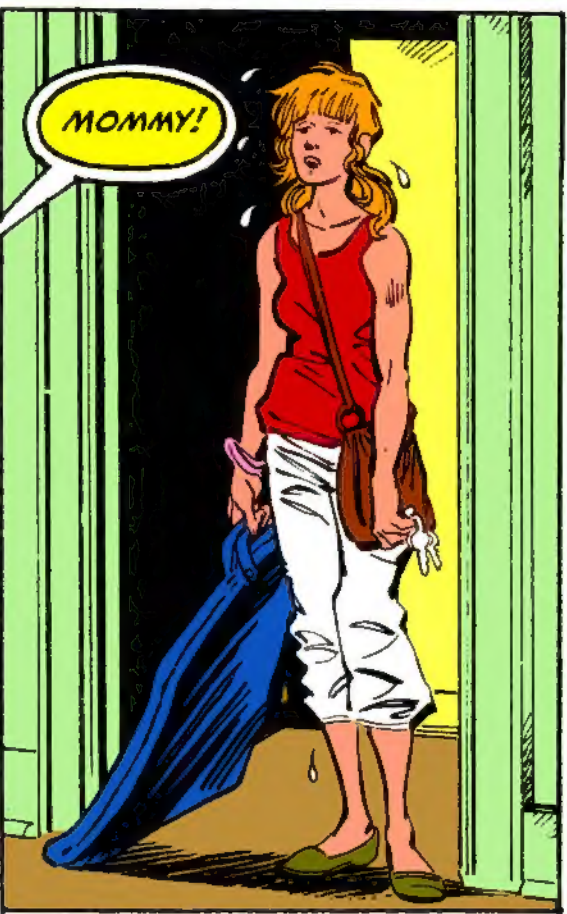


...IF MARVEL GIRL
AND CYCLOPS
COULD TELL
ABOUT THEIR
POWERS, MAYBE
WE OUGHTA
TELL, TOO!

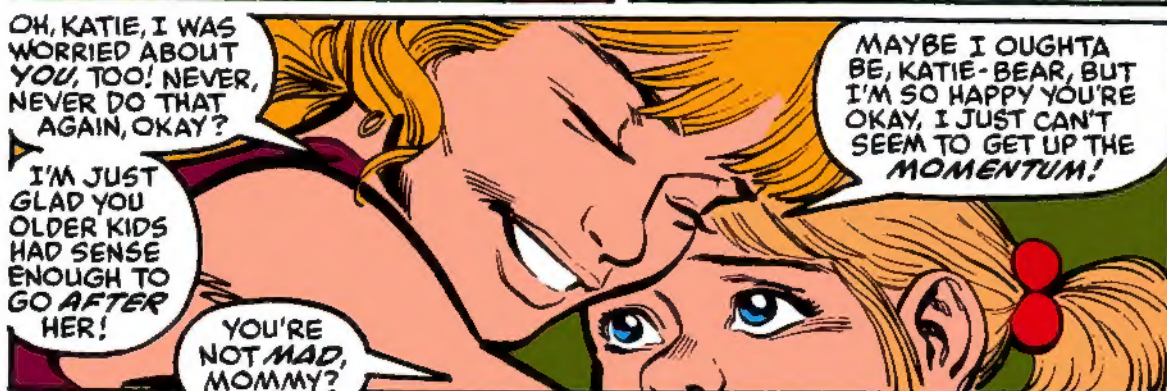
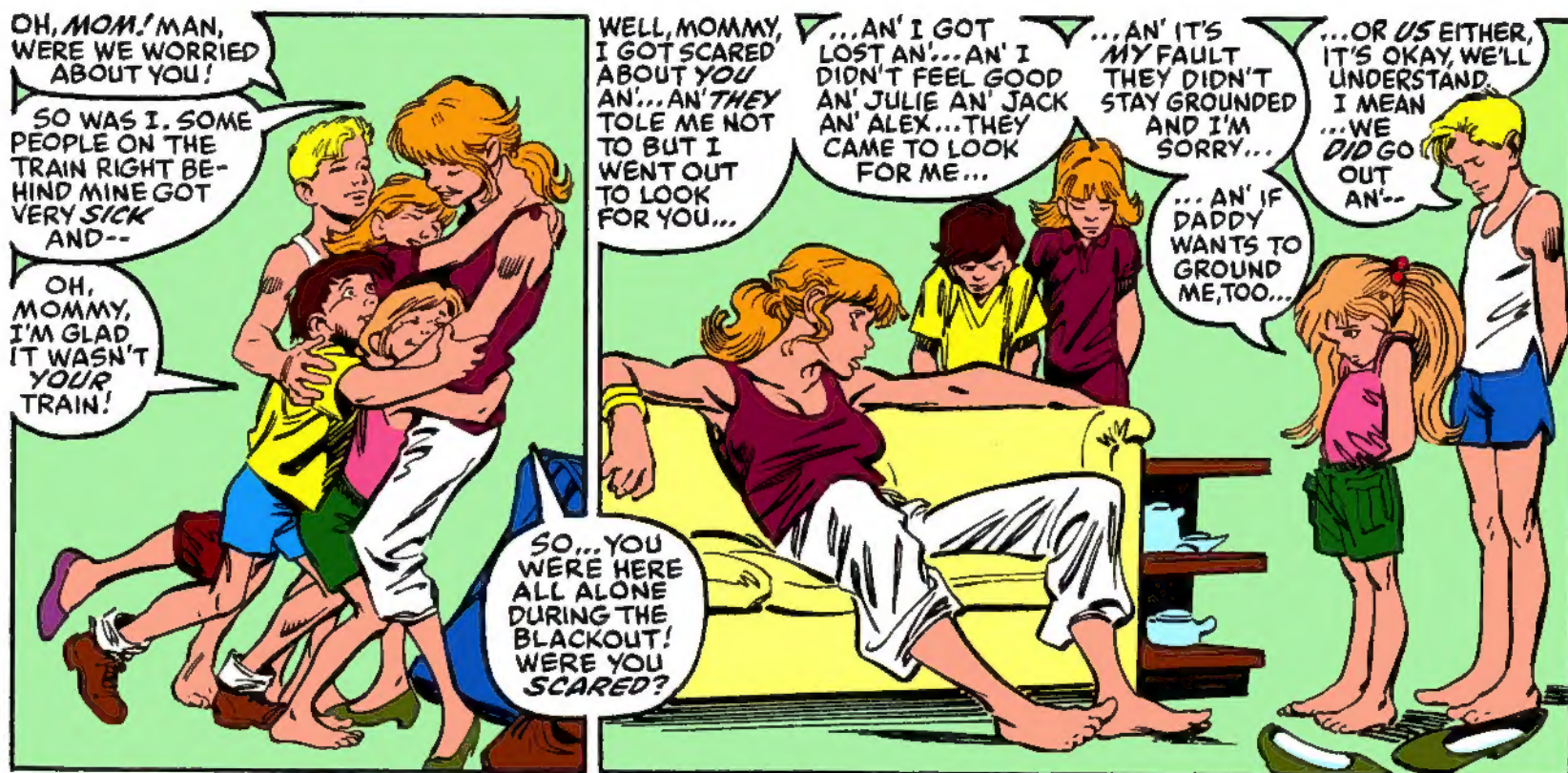
THEY TOLD, SURE...
BUT WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT'LL
HAPPEN TO 'EM!
THERE'S THAT
MUTANT
REGISTRA-
TION ACT,
REMEMBER...?

I THINK WE OUGHTA
WAIT AN' SEE. AFTER
ALL, NOBODY CAN
GROUND THEM LIKE
THEY CAN US... FOR
MAYBE FOREVER!

OH NO!
COSTUMES OFF!



MOMMY!



NEXT ISSUE!
FRANKLIN COMES TO SLEEP OVER (YAY!) BUT THE **MASTER MOLD** COMES TO FIND FRANK (OH NO!) PLUS SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY THE ORIGINAL **FANTASTIC FOUR** AND AN UNEXPECTED DEBUT ON THE **POWER PACK** TEAM!



ED: CARL POTTS • ASST. ED: MARC McLAURIN

Next month marks the often-requested return of Franklin "Tattletale" Richards and is fraught with TERROR! Since we're short of space this month, we've ruthlessly excerpted one letter that came to us titled "The Franklin Richards Story." We hope it propels you right into next month's hair-raising episode. Franklin lovers — GET READY!!!

Franklin Benjamin Richards is the youngest, only four years old — and the newest member of the (POWER PACK) team, but the oldest in the Marvel Universe, born in FF ANNUAL #6, back in the late 1960's.

The psi-problem not only cast Frank in the ridiculous role of Omen child, overused in the extreme, but also started two rashes of repetitive stories. First were the "Dark Franklin" tales, in which Frank's powers would go wild, and Reed and Sue would be forced to fight their own child; these stories always ended with Frank restored to normal with no memory of the experience. After that were the Frank-as-deus-ex-machina stories. The team would end up on the battle lines; (Frank) seeing all the carnage and observing his parents being hurt, he'd lash out with his powers, set everything aright and usually pass out to wake up with, again, no memory of the experience. Besides being boring, Frank caused problems. How on Earth could one do a harrowing story placing the lives of the entire team in peril, if Frank's virtually limitless psionic potential was constantly on hand to bail them out?

Susan Storm Richards is, to be honest, not a born heroine. She does not thrive on adventure or enjoy combat in the slightest, although she has, of late, adapted and become one of the Four's most vital members. When the cosmic rays endowed her with power, Sue was thrust into a role and life-style she did not want, has never liked and

which has completely crushed all her dreams. Sue has wanted two things from life; a successful career as an actress, and a large, warm, happy family.

To Sue, Franklin is more than just her little boy, he's her dream of a normal life. When Sue and Franklin are together Sue can block out the hated "superhero" world and pretend they're a normal, average, everyday family. Unfortunately, this can't last; more often than not, quiet moments are interrupted by disaster, and Reed and Sue have to ride to the rescue.

Franklin is a mutant, a psi of vast potential. While Sue has tried frantically in the past to ignore this, it is impossible to ignore; Frank is not a normal child. This plagued her until FF #245, at which point Frank became a normal child, but her dream was crushed even more when she discovered she couldn't be a good mother to him; he was constantly in danger just because he was hers, and this created a distance between them. She doesn't really know what a good mother is. And she's hurting her son.

Reed Richards is one of the two most brilliant non-enhanced minds on MARVEL Earth. This is one of his most impressive and endearing traits. His vast mind often becomes so entangled in theories, he completely misses jokes and other sundry things while he's enclosed in his fog. But he's also incapable of admitting he's wrong or considering anyone else's opinion, convinced he's right about everything. Sue lets him get away with this, despite the fact that nine times out of ten she's the one who turns out to be right. Reed is a good man, but he's close-minded, selfish and unable to alter his path once he starts on it. And he's hurting his son.

Franklin had psi-powers, but they, for the most part, were under his complete control; except for the business in #245, all "accidents" involving Frank's powers were caused by outside interference. Why didn't

Reed and Sue realize this? Because Reed, Sue and Johnny Storm are all rabid anti-mutant bigots!

I saw those eyebrows snap up; I am telling the truth. When confronted with Frank's mutation, the Richards family reacts not unlike a conservative family confronted by a gay son; Susan sobs and wonders where she went wrong, while Reed searches madly for a cure. Resourceful scientist that he is, he finally succeeds in pinpointing and negating Frank's psionic powers. In doing so, he cripples his son.

Frank's psionic might, his heightened perceptions, his low-level telepathic monitors, all of them were gone suddenly. It must have been like being locked inside a dark trunk, only able to see the light from the keyhole, easy prey for anyone or anything.

Shocks come like a roll of firecrackers. His powers begin to re-emerge. He is caught in a fire, and the boiler blows up in his face, followed by the rest of the house and his "normal life" in Belle Porte. They move back into the Baxter Building and it blows up. His parents desert him when he needs them most, his mother so upset she virtually shrieks at him to go away. It's at this point POWER PACK finally enters the picture.

We haven't said much about Frank himself, only his circumstances, but has anyone realized how brave Frank was to face down Jakal, a dangerous, homicidal alien, while still trying to come to grips with his power-loss? The Power Pack made a wise choice in inducting Franklin Richards.

All Frank's life he's been dumped by one person after another, played with and ignored, and when some people, like his parents, know the full truth about him, they turn cold and merely tolerate him. But not the Pack. All four Powers know all about Frank's powers, are completely aware of his problems and fears, and they stand by him. Franklin is, for the first time in his memory, liked without reservations. Poor Frank is so

lonely it's pathetic; he showers affection on anyone who pays the slightest attention to him. Jarvis, hastily recruited as Frank's nanny while the family was staying at Avengers' Mansion, is a good example; he's merely doing his job, keeping the boy happy and occupied, and Frank latches onto him with the intensity of a long-lost son. He draws pictures of him; when he pledges to keep the Pack's secret, he swears not to tell Mommy or Daddy or even Jarvis. He placed a framed picture of the butler on the night stand next to his bed. Evidence suggests Jarvis would be astonished to hear of this adulation; since Frank left he doesn't seem to have given the kid a second thought. This isn't conscious cruelty; Jarvis just doesn't know. Neither do the Powers, though they have enough clues. When staying at their house, Frank asks Mrs. Power if he can live there.

What Franklin the mutant needs is a specialist, perhaps Moira MacTaggart, to take charge of the case and put the family's fears to rest. What Franklin the MARVEL COMICS character needs is an extensive storyline in one of the two books he stars in, or a limited series dealing with all this business.

Michael Pickens
P.O. Box 552
61 Leonard Avenue
Centerburg, Ohio 43011

We can't speak for FF, Michael, but rest assured we'll be addressing these problems and having Franklin with us as much as his folks will let him visit.

THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS



Syl3nt
Bob